



2026 NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

EQUESTRIAN CANADA SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCEDURES

The North American Youth Championships (the “Championships”) is an international event held annually for youth athletes (see discipline Appendix for specifications). Teams are invited from Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean to compete for team and individual medals. In 2026, the Championships will be held at the **Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, at Flintfields Horse Park, in Traverse City, Michigan from July 27-August 2, 2026 (2026 NAYC)**.

The Championships are designed to mirror the competition format used at the Olympic and Pan American Games. The objective of the national and international Federations is to introduce and prepare competitors for international competitions and Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) rules. In addition, the Championships offer Athletes the opportunity and experience of competing as a member of a team.

The purpose of this document is to set out the selection criteria and procedures that will be used by Equestrian Canada (“EC”) to nominate athlete/horse combinations to compete at the 2026 NAYC.

1. Eligibility

1.1 To be eligible for nomination consideration for the 2026 NAYC, the minimum eligibility requirements listed in this section must be met.

1.2 Athlete

- Be a Canadian citizen (or have landed immigrant status) and in compliance with FEI Article 119 (Sport Nationality Status of Athletes) at the time of application until the conclusion of the Championships. The Province of each Horse/Athlete combination will be determined by the Athlete’s record with EC.
- Meet the following age requirements:
 - **U25 (Dressage Only):** The 2026 NAYC U25 Championships is open only to riders ages, 16-25 born on or between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2010.
 - **Young Rider:** The 2026 NAYC Young Rider Championships is open only to young riders, ages 16-21 born on or between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2010.
 - **Junior:** The 2026 NAYC Junior Championships is open only to juniors, ages 14-18 born on or between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2012.
 - **Pre Junior (Jumping Only):** The 2026 NAYC Pre-Junior Championships is open only to pre-juniors, ages 14-16 born on or between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012.
 - **Children:** The 2026 NAYC Children Championships is open only to Children, ages 12-14 born on or between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2014.



- Be registered and in good standing with the Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO), EC (Platinum Sport Licence Holder) and the FEI at the time of declaration and until the conclusion of the Championships.
- Sign, submit and comply with the EC Participant Agreement and conform to all applicable EC policies regarding team preparation, training and competitions.
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry and accreditation processes.

1.3 Horse

- At the time of declaration, possess a current valid FEI Document and Registration, and be in good standing with the FEI.
- Meet the age requirements as outlined below:
 - Jumping:
 - Minimum of six (6) for Children and Pre-Junior
 - Minimum of seven (7) for Junior and Young Riders
 - Dressage:
 - Minimum of six (6) for Children and Junior
 - Minimum of seven (7) for Young Riders
 - Minimum of eight (8) for U25

1.4 Groom

- Have attained the age of majority in the province, territory or country of residency at the time of the 2026 NAYC.
- Be eligible to travel to the 2026 NAYC.
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes.
- Sign, submit and comply with the EC Participant Agreement and conform to all applicable EC policies regarding team preparation, training and competitions.
- Athletes are responsible for ensuring that their selected groom is qualified, kept informed and is available for the time commitments in the proposed schedule for the 2026 NAYC.

1.5 Horse Owner

- Be eligible to travel to the 2026 NAYC.
- At minimum one Horse Owner must be listed as an owner in the FEI Document.
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes.
- Sign, submit and comply with the EC Participant Agreement and conform to all EC policies applicable to horse owners regarding team preparation, training and competitions.
- For individuals acting in a coaching capacity at NAYC, must hold a current EC Licensed Coach Status or equivalent.



1.6 Athlete Companion

- Be eligible to travel to the 2026 NAYC.
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for athlete companions for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes.
- Sign, submit and comply with the EC Participant Agreement and conform to all EC policies applicable to athlete companions regarding team preparation, training and competitions.
- For individuals acting in a coaching capacity at NAYC, must hold a current EC Licensed Coach Status or equivalent.

2. Declaration and Accreditation Procedures

Declaration

- 2.1 **Deadline Date:** Declarations for the 2026 NAYC must be submitted on or before **March 27, 2026 (“Declaration Date”)**. Applications and documentation received after the stated deadline dates will not be accepted.
- 2.2 **Purpose:** The Declaration Date allows sufficient time for the Accreditation Process to be completed for athletes, grooms, owners, and athlete companions.
- 2.3 **Process:** Athletes wishing to be considered for selection to a 2026 NAYC Canadian team (“Team”) MUST submit the following to EC :
- Online profile (new/updated) and declaration through the EC Major Games and Championships Portal. For help with the EC Major Games and Championships Portal, please reference the guide on the landing page.
 - New users: <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/register?user=new>
 - Existing users: <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login.aspx>
 - Signed Statement of Interest (Appendix 1)
 - Competition Schedule (Appendix 2)

Athlete Profile (Appendix 3) **At the time of declaration, the athlete will provide:**

- 2.4 **Horses:** The name, FEI Document number, FEI Document expiry date and blanket size for each declared horse.
- 2.5 **Horse Owners:** The name, unique email address, and phone number for up to two (2) declared owners per horse, in priority order for accreditation purposes; at least one owner must be listed in the FEI Document. In the case of syndicate ownership groups, declared athlete/horse owners do not need to be individually listed in the FEI Document, but must be individually declared in priority order for accreditation purposes.
- 2.6 **Grooms:** The name, unique e-mail address, and phone number for a minimum of one (1) up to a maximum of four (4) declared grooms in priority order.



- 2.7 **Athlete Companions:** The name, unique e-mail address, and phone number for a minimum of one (1) up to a maximum of four (4) declared athlete companions in priority order. Athlete Companions can be any type of individual ex. coach, parent, guest, etc. Individuals acting in a coaching capacity at 2026 NAYC, must hold a current EC Licensed Coach Status or equivalent.

Accreditation

- 2.8 **Number of Accredited Persons:**

- Athlete (1)
- Groom (1)
- Horse Owner (maximum 2 per horse)
- Athlete Companion (1)

- 2.9 **Process:** The accreditation process for the 2026 NAYC will be coordinated by EC through the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”). To help facilitate this process, athletes are required to provide unique email addresses and phone numbers for all potential grooms and owners, at the time of declaration in the EC Major Games and Championships Portal. **Any subsequent changes to accreditation details i.e. new owners, grooms, etc., must be reported to the EC Youth Teams Coordinator immediately in writing, by sending an email to: (a) for Jumping, jumping@equestrian.ca; (b) for Dressage, youthteams@equestrian.ca and receiving confirmation of its receipt from the EC Youth Teams Coordinator. Additional information about Accreditation can be found here: [https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/images/Multi-Sport%20Games%20and%20FEI%20Championships%20Accreditation%20\(EN\).pdf](https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/images/Multi-Sport%20Games%20and%20FEI%20Championships%20Accreditation%20(EN).pdf)**

Withdrawal

- 2.10 **Withdrawal:** Declared athletes who subsequently choose to withdraw from the nomination process (either themselves or their horse) prior to the naming of the team and alternates, must advise the EC Youth Teams Coordinator of their decision in writing, **by sending an email to: (a) for Jumping, jumping@equestrian.ca; (b) for Dressage, youthteams@equestrian.ca and receiving confirmation of its receipt from the EC Youth Teams Coordinator.**

3. . Principles for Selection

EC will select the most competitive athlete/horse combination(s) to best represent Canada at the 2026 NAYC. Please see Appendix for discipline specific information.

4. Selection and Substitutions

- 4.1 If an applicant's best ranked Horse is no longer available, the applicant may request to be considered for selection on another Horse as long as that horse is declared. The request will be reviewed by the EC Selection Committee for 2026 NAYC (“the Selectors”).



- 4.2 Horse/Athlete combinations for the Children, Pre-Junior (Jumping Only), Junior and Young Rider and, U25 (Dressage only) Teams will be named by the Definite Entry deadline outlined in the FEI schedule.
- 4.3 Athletes, once selected by the Selectors, must continue to comply with all applicable policies and rules of EC to remain eligible to represent EC at the 2026 NAYC competition.
- 4.4 A Parent and/or Guardian is required to attend the 2026 NAYC with the Athlete if the Athlete is a minor (under 18 years).
- 4.5 Additional releases and contracts may need to be executed by the Athlete, Parent/Guardian and Horse Owner(s) following selection.
- 4.6 Any required changes to the individuals on a Team and alternate will be allowed, provided the particular combination to be substituted was named in the nominated entries **of July 1st, 2026**. Selectors shall have the final decision on all substitutions.
- 4.7 After the Definite Entry Deadline, **of July 8th, 2026**, substitutions will only be allowed in the event of an accident or illness of a competitor and/or Horse on the production of a certificate from a licensed physician or Veterinarian, as applicable.
- 4.8 **Appeals:**
 1. Athletes participating in the selection process for the 2026 NAYC have the right to appeal against a selection decision but only on the grounds that EC has failed to comply with the correct procedures outlined in this selection document or has made a decision that no rational body of selectors could reasonably reach. An appeal must be made in writing to the Manager for the discipline within 72 hours of the relevant rider being informed of the decision. Appeals must be accompanied by an administration fee of \$1000.00 (CAD).
 2. Athletes hereby adopt the EC Appeal Policy as the mechanism to resolve disputes between all declared riders and EC. Nevertheless, in recognition of the short timelines required for the decision process, both parties may agree to abridge the EC Appeal Policy process and as an option adopt the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) appeal process as a time-efficient alternative process. In such an instance, the administration fee will be applied to the fee required for appeal to SDRCC.

5. Fundraising

- 5.1 All declared athletes are expected to support the Team's fundraising efforts to help cover the associated expenses for 2026 NAYC.
- 5.2 Fundraising activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - Online auctions - Athletes are responsible for the collection of the items and the mailing or delivery of items (if not an electronic gift card/certificate)
 - Tack / bake sales.
 - Stall cleaning events.



5.3 Athletes are encouraged to brainstorm together for additional fundraising ideas.

5.4 Funds raised must be remitted to EC within 7 days via <https://www.equestrian.ca/donate>. Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt.

5.5 All funds raised are used to decrease the expenses of the Canadian 2026 NAYC Teams. Expenses include:

- Team Outfitting item(s) for all horses, athletes, grooms, and the Chef(s) d'Equipe (and outfitting of owners, and athlete companions if donations permit)
- Chef(s) d'Equipe golf cart rental.
- Chef's expenses including travel, hotel, rental car (gas and parking), and meals

6. Expenses

6.1 Each Athlete selected to a Team for the 2026 NAYC will be responsible and invoiced through the competition organizer for the below expenses.

- Entry and Stabling Fees
- Tack stalls (cost for team tack stalls will be split, individual tack stalls- if available- will be charged in full to the Athlete)
Note: Historically, these expenses have amounted to approximately **\$1,500-\$2,000** per competitor.

6.2 Selected athletes are responsible for all personal and groom expenses, salaries, hotel and transportation costs. In addition, selected athletes are responsible for the cost of shipping their Horse(s) to the Championships, including any documents, vaccinations, border crossing/related fees or similar expenses.

6.3 Equine travel must be approved before departure to the 2026 NAYC by the Selectors.

7. Equine and Human Doping Control

7.1 Should the soundness of a selected Horse come into question prior to departure for the 2026 NAYC, the Horse may be required to be jogged for soundness in front of an individual designated by the Selectors. Any "jogs" will be announced in advance and will be run under FEI drug rules.

7.2 Candidates shall present for the jog at the 2026 NAYC a sound Horse that is well groomed, braided and in a bridle.

7.3 Candidates when presenting their Horse for the jog at the 2026 NAYC shall be properly attired (boots, breeches, helmet and EC polo).



7.4 The Selectors reserve the right to eliminate from consideration for selection any declared Horse it believes will not successfully pass the 2026 NAYC veterinary inspection.

7.5 The 2026 NAYC is a drug-free competition. During the 2026 NAYC, FEI rules will be in effect, and all Horses shall be subject to drug testing. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected at any time. Samples will be tested for the presence of all forbidden and/or controlled substances using FEI guidelines. If any substance is detected for which the FEI has established quantitative restrictions, the amount of this substance will be quantified. At the 2026 NAYC any Horse testing above the current FEI limits for any FEI prohibited and/or quantitative substance shall be eliminated from the competition.

7.6 In accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and Sport Canada regulations for Athletes representing their province or country at international events, all Athletes may be subjected to announced and unannounced drug testing according to Sport Integrity Canada (“SIC”) and EC Rules and Policies.

8. Removal of Athletes

An Athlete may be removed from the Team or as a Substitute for any of the following reasons:

- 8.1 Voluntary withdrawal. In such a case, an Athlete wishing to withdraw is asked to inform EC Youth Teams Coordinator of their decision in writing by email in accordance with Section 2.10.
- 8.2 Violation of EC’s Code of Conduct.
- 8.3 Failure to adhere to all WADA, SIC, FEI and EC anti-doping protocols (Equine), policies and procedures.
- 8.4 Injury or illness of their Horse, as certified by a Veterinarian agreed upon by the Owner(s) and Selectors.
- 8.5 Injury or illness of Athlete, as certified by a physician.



JUMPING

The 2026 NAYC is an athlete development opportunity for our future Canadian equestrian stars. Athlete/horse combinations must qualify for consideration and are selected through the published and posted criteria for the FEI North American Children, Pre Junior, Junior, and Young Rider competitions.

Selection Goals:

(Where permitted by the criteria and the rules of the competition)

- Maximize the number of athlete/horse combinations representing Canada at the 2026 NAYC
- Maximize the opportunities for each athlete/horse combination by selecting athlete/horse combinations to Teams, where possible, that allow the athlete the opportunity to participate for both Team and Individual medals

1. General

- 1.1 Each North American Youth Championships (Young Rider) Team will consist of four members and an alternate. The alternate may compete in the Championship as an Individual. The 2026 NAYC features both a Team and an Individual competition for Young Rider. Maximum fence heights will be 1.50m (4'11") with proportional spread between 1.50m and 1.80m (4'11" to 5'9") per FEI Jumping Rules Annex IX, Article 17.
- 1.2 Each North American Junior Championship (Junior) Team will consist of four members and an alternate. The alternate may compete in the 2026 NAYC as an Individual. The 2026 NAYC features both a Team and an Individual competition for Junior. Maximum fence heights will be 1.40m (4'7") with proportional spread between 1.40m to 1.70m (4'7" to 5'6") per FEI Jumping Rules Annex IX, Article 17.
- 1.3 Each North American Pre-Junior Jumper Championships (Pre-Junior) Team will consist of four members and an alternate. The alternate may compete in the 2026 NAYC as an Individual. The 2026 NAYC features both a Team and an Individual competition for Pre-Junior. Maximum fence heights will be 1.30m with proportional spread between 1.00m and 1.30m (3'3" to 4'3").
- 1.4 Each North American Children's Jumper Championships (Children) Team will consist of four members and an alternate. The alternate may compete in the 2026 NAYC as an Individual. The 2026 NAYC features both a Team and an Individual competition for Children. Maximum fence heights will be 1.25m (4'2") with proportional spread between 1.00m and 1.30m (3'3" to 4'3") per FEI Jumping Rules Annex XII Chapter IV Article 23.
- 1.5 EC reserves the right to send more than one Team for either division should the number of applications warrant and as long as all individuals on the Team are capable and qualified to attend based on the set criteria.



2. Principles for Selection:

EC will select the most competitive athlete/horse combination(s) to best represent Canada at the 2026 NAYC. The Selectors will base their selections of the Athletes and their Horse(s) for each Youth event on the following factors:

2.1 Young Rider:

1. Overall performance in 1.45m (4'9") or higher competitions with emphasis on the following:
 - The ability to compete without incurring jumping/or time penalties at 1.45m (4'9") or higher, as well as a record of having done so on a consistent basis.
 - Previous international and national experience, including the demonstrated ability of Horse and Athlete to succeed in either FEI or national show jumping competitions within the past 2 years.
 - A record of successfully jumping over a variety of types of courses and in particular over courses that included a water jump of 3.7m (12').
2. The fitness and soundness of the Horse.
3. The Athlete's health and fitness level including the Athlete's ability to perform under pressure.

2.2 Junior:

1. Overall performance in 1.40m (4'7") or higher competitions with emphasis on the following:
 - Ability to compete without incurring jumping and/or time penalties at 1.40m (4'7") or higher, as well as a record of having done so on a consistent basis.
 - Previous international and national experience, including the demonstrated ability of the Horse and Athlete to succeed in either FEI or national show jumping competitions within the past 2 years.
 - A record of successfully jumping over a variety of types of courses and in particular over courses that included a water jump of 3.7m (12').
2. The fitness and soundness of the Horse.
3. The Athlete's health and fitness level including the Athlete's ability to perform under pressure.

2.3 Pre-Junior:

1. Overall performance in 1.30m (4'3") or higher competitions with emphasis on the following:
 - Ability to compete without incurring jumping and/or time penalties at 1.30m or higher, as well as a record of having done so on a consistent basis.
 - Previous international and national experience, including the demonstrated ability of the Horse and Athlete to succeed in either FEI or national show jumping competitions within the past 2 years.
 - A record of successfully jumping over a variety of types of courses and ideally over courses that included a Liverpool.



2. The fitness and soundness of the Horse.
3. The Athlete's health and fitness level, including the Athlete's ability to perform under pressure.

2.4 Children:

1. Overall performance in 1.25m (4'2") or higher competitions with emphasis on the following:
 - Ability to compete without incurring jumping and/or time penalties at 1.25m (4'2") or higher, as well as a record of having done so on a consistent basis.
 - Previous international and national experience, including the demonstrated ability of the Horse and Athlete to succeed in either FEI or national show jumping competitions within the past 2 years.
 - A record of successfully jumping over a variety of types of courses and ideally over courses that included a Liverpool.
2. The fitness and soundness of the Horse.
3. The Athlete's health and fitness level, including the Athlete's ability to perform under pressure.

3. Team Announcement

3.1 EC shall announce the 2026 NAYC athlete/horse combinations including reserves, on or before June 29, 2026.

3.2 Non-Disclosure Policy Regarding Team Announcement It is important that ALL athletes selected for the 2026 NAYC (as well as ALL owners, grooms, guests, chef(s), Team personnel, and anyone else affiliated with a selected athlete, including friends, and family) respect this Non-Disclosure Policy regarding Team Announcement until after the official announcement of the Team by EC. Until the official EC Team announcement, athletes and their affiliates (owners, grooms, guests, companions, Chef(s), Team personnel, and anyone else affiliated with a selected athlete, including friends, and family) are to refrain from confirming Team selections to any and all media, and must not make any references that confirms Team selections on social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, Snapchat etc.). The purpose of this non-disclosure policy is to ensure maximum impact and exposure for the announcement of the athlete who will represent Canada at the 2026 NAYC. Violation of this non-disclosure policy may result in sanctions, up to and including removal of the athlete from the selection process.



NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS CHECK LIST - JUMPING

Declaration - Due March 27, 2026

- Online Declaration
 - Submit using EC Major Games and Championships Portal (new/edit your profile)
 - <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login.aspx>
- Appendix 1 – Statement of Interest
- Appendix 2 – Competition Schedule
- Appendix 3 - Athlete Profile

- EC Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments online course
- EC Concussion Awareness online course
- EC Athlete/Participant Agreement

Registration/Licences – Due March 27, 2026

- EC Platinum Sport Licence (Athlete)
- FEI Athlete Registration
- FEI Horse Registration (FEI Document and yearly FEI Registration) Please be advised that it typically takes a minimum of 4 weeks to complete a FEI document application if your horse does not already hold a FEI document.
- EC Licensed Coach Status (Canadian individuals coaching athletes at NAYC) or equivalent

TUE Application (if applicable) – Due March 27, 2026

- TUE Application
 - Submit via CCES
 - <https://www.cces.ca/medical-exemptions>

Accreditation – All personnel will have 2 weeks to complete once teams are named. Failure to complete within the 2 weeks may result in accreditation not being issued.

- EC Online Screening Disclosure Agreement
- Criminal Record Check
- Vulnerable Sector Check (Coaches or if required based on Criminal Record Check Results)
- EC Non-Disclosure Agreement
- EC International Travel Waiver
- EC Minor Consent Letter (if applicable)
- EC Medical Information Form
- CCES True Sport Clean online course
- Athlete Release of Liability & Waiver
- Groom/Athlete Companion/Team Personnel Release of Liability & Waiver
- Owner Release of Liability & Waiver



DRESSAGE

1. QUALIFICATION PERIOD

1.1 The qualification period shall run from **June 16, 2025, until & including June 14, 2026** (“**Qualification Period**”)

2. DECLARATION FEE

2.1 The Canadian 2026 NAYC Dressage Team declaration fee is \$300 CDN per athlete and it must be paid at the time of declaration.

3. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS, CLASSES & SCORES

3.1 Qualification is based upon the athlete/horse combination.

3.2 Qualifying classes must be ridden at either EC Gold or Platinum (CDI), foreign sanctioned or FEI sanctioned competitions. Note: Athletes may use scores obtained in Test of Choice (TOC) classes for qualification provided the scores meet these criteria:

3.3 Each athlete/horse combination must submit scores as follows:

Children’s Division

1. **Three (3) Technical Scores** – Three (3) technical scores must be submitted and **each technical score submitted must be a minimum of 65% or higher.**

- a) Two (2) scores from the FEI Children’s Team Test – at least one Children’s Team Test score submitted must be from 2026; **Note:** One of the submitted scores can be from 2025 provided it is within the Qualification Period
- b) One (1) score from the FEI Children’s Individual Test - this score must be from 2026;
- c) A maximum of one score from the FEI Children’s Team Test and one score from the FEI Children’s Individual test may be obtained at the same competition.
- d) All scores must be achieved from a panel as outlined in s.3.4. The panel’s average (final score) is to be submitted.
- e) CDI-CH competition scores will have a bonus of 1% added by EC before ranking.
- f) See additional eligibility requirements for 2026 NAYC s.4 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) and s.5 (Horse/Pony Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) of this criterion.

Junior Riders

1. **Three (3) Technical Scores** – **Three (3) Technical scores must be submitted and each technical score submitted must be a minimum of 65% or higher.**

- a) Two (2) scores from the FEI Junior Team Test – at least one score submitted must be from 2026; Note: One score can be from 2025 provided it is within the Qualification Period;
- b) One (1) score from the FEI Junior Individual Test - this score must be from 2026.
- c) A maximum of one score from the FEI Junior Team Test and one score from the FEI Junior Individual test may be obtained at the same competition.



- d) All scores must be achieved from a panel as outlined in s.3.4. The panel's average (final score) is to be submitted.
 - e) CDI-JR competition scores will have a bonus of 1% added by EC before ranking
 - f) See additional eligibility requirements for 2026 NAYC s.4 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) and s.5 (Horse/Pony Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) of this criterion.
2. **FEI JR Freestyle Score As a minimum eligibility standard, each declared athlete must obtain a score of at least 66%**
- a) The submitted Freestyle score will not be used as selection scores except in the case of breaking a tie as set out in s.6.9.
 - b) The score must be achieved from a panel as outlined in s.3.4. The panel's average (final score) is to be submitted.
 - c) The score must be obtained during the Qualification Period.
 - d) CDI-JR Freestyle competition scores will have a bonus of 1% added by EC before ranking
 - e) See additional eligibility requirements for NAYC s.4 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) and s.5 (Horse/Pony Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) of this criterion.

Young Riders

1. **Three (3) Technical Scores – Three (3) Technical scores must be submitted and each technical score submitted must be a minimum of 65% or higher.**
- a) Two (2) scores from the FEI Young Rider Team Test – at least one score submitted must be from 2026; **Note:** One score can be from 2025 provided it is within the Qualification Period;
 - b) One (1) score from the FEI Young Rider Individual Test - this score must be from 2026
 - c) A maximum of one score from the FEI Young Rider Team test and one score from the FEI Young Rider Individual test may be obtained at the same competition.
 - d) All scores must be achieved from a panel as outlined in s. 3.4. The panel's average (final score) is to be submitted.
 - e) CDI-YR competition scores will have a bonus of 1% added by EC before ranking
 - f) See additional eligibility requirements for 2026 NAYC s.4 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) and s.5 (Horse/Pony Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) of this criterion.
2. **Young Rider Freestyle Score As a minimum eligibility standard, each declared athlete must obtain a score of a minimum of at least 66%**
- a) The submitted Freestyle score will not be used as selection scores except in the case of breaking a tie as set out in s. 6.9.
 - b) The score must be achieved from a panel as outlined in s.3.4. The panel's average (final score) is to be submitted.
 - c) The score must be obtained during the Qualification Period.
 - d) CDI-YR Freestyle competition scores will have a bonus of 1% added by EC before ranking



- e) See additional eligibility requirements for 2026 NAYC s.4 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) and s.5 (Horse/Pony Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) of this criterion.

U25 Riders

1. **Three (3) Technical Scores – Three (3) Technical scores must be submitted and each technical score submitted must be a minimum of 65.00% or higher.**

- a) Two (2) scores from the FEI Intermediate II Test – at least one score submitted must be from 2026; **Note:** One score can be from 2025 provided it is within the Qualification Period;
- b) One (1) score from the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test - this score must be from 2026
- c) A maximum of one score from the FEI Intermediate II Test and one score from the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 test may be obtained at the same competition.
- d) All scores must be achieved from a panel as outlined in s. 3.4. The panel's average (final score) is to be submitted.
- e) CDI-U25 competition scores will have a bonus of 1% added by EC before ranking
- f) See additional eligibility requirements for NAYC s.4 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) and s.5 (Horse Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) of this criterion.

2. **Freestyle Score As a minimum eligibility standard, each declared athlete must obtain a score of a minimum of at least 66%.**

- a) The submitted FEI Grand Prix Freestyle score will not be used as selection scores except in the case of breaking a tie as set out in s.6.9.
- b) The score must be achieved from a panel as outlined in s.3.4. The panel's average (final score) is to be submitted.
- c) The score must be from a qualified competition within the Qualification Period.
- d) CDI-U25 Freestyle competition scores will have a bonus of 1% added by EC before ranking
- e) See additional eligibility requirements for 2026 NAYC s.4 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) and s.5 (Horse/Pony Eligibility Requirements / Restrictions) of this criterion.

3.4 All qualifying scores **must be obtained from a panel with a minimum of two judges** composed as follows:

- I. A minimum of two EC Senior Dressage judges or Two Foreign National Senior Dressage judges or a combination thereof. Judges must hold an official Senior status (not a temporary or guest card status).
- II. A minimum of one FEI Dressage Judge and one EC Senior Dressage Judge or one Foreign National Senior Dressage judge or a combination thereof. Must hold an official FEI or Senior status (not a temporary or guest card status); or
- III. Two or more FEI Dressage Judges.



Note:

- Where a panel is comprised of two judges the full panel score must be submitted as the qualification score
- Where a panel is comprised of three judges the full panel score must be submitted as the qualification score
- Where a panel is comprised of five judges the full panel score must be submitted as the qualification score

All submitted scores must have been obtained in tests ridden without whips. A declaration to this effect must be signed and sent by the athlete when submitting their qualification scores 2026 Score Submission, Whip and FEI compliance declaration portal

4. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS / RESTRICTIONS

- 4.1 Athletes must hold an EC Gold or Platinum sport licence before entering a qualifying competition and must hold a Platinum Sport Licence at the time of declaration for 2026 NAYC.
- 4.2 Athletes must have a valid Canadian passport at time of declaration. Passports must not expire before **September 1st, 2026**. Athletes not holding valid Canadian passports at the time of declaration must submit proof of eligibility to hold a Canadian passport (*photocopies of the following documents are acceptable: birth certificate, Canadian Citizenship, or an expired Canadian passport*).
- 4.3 As per FEI Regulations, athletes must be registered with the FEI before they can take part in any international competition no later than four (4) weeks prior to their first international competition.
- 4.4 Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements according to FEI Regulations for Children, Juniors, Young Riders, or U25 Riders. Rules can be found at:
FEI General Regulations- <https://inside.fei.org/content/general-regs-statutes>
FEI Dressage Rules - <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/rules>
FEI Veterinary Rules - <https://inside.fei.org/content/fei-veterinary-rules>

5. HORSE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS / RESTRICTIONS

- 5.1 Horses must meet all requirements according to FEI Regulations and eligibility requirements (see rules link in s.4.4 above).
- 5.2 Horses of any origin (biological and geographical) may take part in International Dressage competitions in accordance with the FEI Rules for Dressage. Note: Biological origin exception - Ponies and mules are ineligible to compete in the Junior, Young Rider and U25 divisions. Ponies may compete in the Children's division.
- 5.3 Horse Ownership must be in accordance with the current FEI General Regulations.
- 5.4 Horses must have a valid FEI Document **at the time of selection**. The application process to obtain an FEI Document may be completed through the horse owner's MY-EC account (Must



have a current/valid Platinum EC Sport Licence to proceed through the application process).
Please contact FEIservices@equestrian.ca for assistance if required.

****Note:** The process of obtaining a FEI Document can take approximately eight (8) weeks to complete.

- 5.5 Per FEI Regulations, all horses must be registered with the FEI and EC before they can take part in any international competition. It is recommended that horses have a FEI Registration and FEI Document prior to starting a qualifying competition. Horses should be registered at least eight (8) weeks in advance of the first qualifying competition. FEI Horse Registration numbers need to be renewed each year. For further information please contact FEIservices@equestrian.ca or visit www.equestrian.ca.
- 5.6 A valid FEI Document, and Coggins Test must always accompany the horse from the time of declaration onward.
- 5.7 The FEI Document must have the Vaccination section endorsed by a Veterinary Surgeon, who is not an owner of the animal, stating that it has received: vaccination requirements in accordance with the current FEI Veterinary Regulations. Additionally:
- i. Declared athletes are requested to consult with a federal veterinarian regarding vaccinations and export/import requirements prior to departure.
 - ii. If the horse is a stallion or mare, there may be additional vaccinations and tests required therefore, it is strongly suggested that the declared athlete and owner consult with a federal veterinarian on all requirements.
 - iii. It is strongly recommended that all owners/athletes who declare that they wish to participate in the qualifying/selection process for the 2026 NAYC consult with a federal veterinarian prior to declaration, and in any event 90 days prior to the anticipated departure date, to ensure that regulations regarding residency, quarantine, vaccinations, laboratory testing and documentation in respect of a temporary shipment to and from the US can and will be adhered to within the time lines set out in this criteria.
- 5.8 A condition of participation in the qualifying and selection process is the agreement by the horse owner, personal coach, personal veterinarian and athlete to cooperate 100% with EC in the delivery of equine athletes capable of successfully completing fitness and drug testing requirements as set out in s. 7 of these criteria. This agreement is evidenced by submitting your declaration.

6. SELECTION OF THE TEAM(S)

- 6.1 All Scores Report Forms (along with official class results) must be submitted via the online score submission portal [form](#) on or before **9 a.m. ET on Monday, June 15, 2026**. Score Report Forms **received after 9 a.m. ET on Monday, June 15, 2026** will **not** be considered. *Incomplete or illegible forms will be considered invalid. EC is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected or stolen correspondence. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the applicant from being considered.*
- 6.2 Any athlete who fails to submit scores per s. 3.3 above is ineligible to be considered for the 2026 NAYC exception, see below:

Extraordinary Unforeseen Circumstances



The Selectors may consider athlete/horse combinations that did not achieve the s.3.3 score requirements, but only under extraordinary, unforeseen circumstances. Extraordinary, unforeseen circumstances may include, without limitation, situations of temporary injury to either the athlete or the horse that are outside the reasonable control of the athlete, extreme weather causing cancellation of a qualification event, or unusual and unforeseen events occurring at a qualification event or preventing access to one or more qualification events or preventing one or more qualification events from taking place etc.

- 6.3 **Provincial Teams:** The athlete/horse combinations for each Provincial Team will be selected in descending order based on the average of the three technical scores submitted to a maximum of the four best athlete/horse combinations per Team. Any additional athletes qualified under the criteria, but not selected in the top four in their Province when ranked may at the discretion of EC be named as reserve athletes to their Provincial Team.
- 6.4 **Combined Provincial Teams:** When Provinces do not have enough qualified athletes to form a Team, athletes from those Provinces may be combined to form Combined Provincial Teams. These Combined Provincial Teams will have a minimum of three to a maximum of four athlete/horse combinations. The methodology and priorities for how to constitute the various Teams are set out in Attachment A (Team Selection Goals, Guidelines and Priorities).
- 6.5 In determining the athlete/horse combinations, so long as the priorities set out in Attachment A and elsewhere in these criteria are also applied, EC may consider a comparison of scores as a factor in determining which athlete/horse combinations to place on Combined Provincial Teams and how to arrange those combinations including when making substitutions under s.6.10.
- 6.6 In making these selection decisions and interpreting the priorities set out in Attachment A, EC will do so in a way that prefers athletes on Teams from within their region. **Please note:** When an athlete/horse combination or athlete/horse combinations have been selected from a Province to participate on a Combined Provincial Team, no additional athletes from that Province are permitted to enter the 2026 NAYC on another Combined Provincial Team or as Individuals
- 6.7 **Individual Athletes:** When a Provincial Team or Combined Provincial Team is not constituted for a Province, then individual athlete/horse combinations from that Province with the necessary qualifying scores as set out in s.3, may be selected from those remaining Provinces to a maximum of the two best athlete/horse combinations from that Province.
- 6.8 If an athlete has qualified more than one horse, the athlete/horse combination with the highest average technical scores will be selected to compete at 2026 NAYC. That athlete may substitute their second qualified horse **ONLY** in the event that their highest ranked horse is unable to compete at the Championships due to illness or injury, and their second qualified horse is ranked such that the alternate combination is within the top 4 athlete/horse combinations for that Province or in the case of combined Provincial Teams and Individual Athletes ranked such that they are in the top 2 or 3 for their Province in the case of a combined Provincial Team or the top 2 for an Individual athlete from a Province with no Team.
- 6.9 **TIES:** In the event of a tie between any two or more athlete/horse combinations the combination with the highest Team test score shall break the tie. Should there still be a tie then the single highest Individual score submitted will break the tie. Should there still be a tie then the highest Freestyle score submitted will break the tie.



- 6.10 In the event that following the selection, a Team's athlete/horse combination is unable to proceed to the 2026 NAYC for any reason, EC may select an athlete/horse combination from the list of qualified reserve athlete/horse combinations from that Province, in the case of Provincial Teams of 4, or from the original pool of athlete/horse combinations from those that the Combined Provincial Teams were selected, to move-up and be named to a Provincial Team or Combined Provincial Team. This may result in reconstituting other Combined Provincial Teams or Provincial Teams of three to maintain the priorities set out in Attachment A. If two or more changes are required, EC shall have the ability to select two or more qualified individual athlete/horse combinations to move-up and be named to a Provincial Team or Combined Provincial Team where required. The foregoing is only applicable prior to the date of the definite entries and provided that the 2026 NAYC Organizing Committee ("OC") allows substitutions in these situations. This rule regarding substitutions may be subject to change based on regulations imposed by external organizations such as the OC.
- 6.11 Following Team selection all athlete/horse combinations should organize their travel plans to arrive on site at Flintfields Horse Park before the start of the competition, if permitted by the OC. Arriving on site a minimum of 2 days in advance of the start of the competition allows time for horses and riders to acclimate to the weather and surroundings and allows time to hand out sponsor items, organize Team photos, complete a practice jog, and ensure that all Chef(s) d'Equipe have sufficient time to meet with their Teams/athletes. **Note:** Additional fees for early arrivals may be borne by the rider.

7. HORSE FITNESS AND DRUG SCREENING

- 7.1 Horses are not to be competed under the influence of any prohibited substances identified in the FEI Veterinary Regulations. Horses found to have done so will be disqualified from that competition, ineligible to be selected for 2026 NAYC and if already selected shall be removed from the Team.
- 7.2 All declared horses may be subject to drug testing. Blood and / or urine samples may be collected at any time during the qualifying period or at the 2026 NAYC. Should a horse not pass drug testing (including re-testing), the horse will be disqualified at the discretion of EC.
- 7.3 It is of paramount importance that the welfare of the horse is protected. EC wishes to ensure that no unfit or unsound horse travels to the 2026 NAYC. Throughout the period commencing on the date of declaration up to the 2026 NAYC, all horses may be subject, without advance notice at competitions, and with twenty-four hours' notice out of competition, to be submitted, at the discretion of EC, for assessment for soundness and/or the presence of prohibited substances.
- 7.4 **Veterinarian Affidavit:** The owner / athlete of each horse selected to compete at the Championships must provide to EC via email to naycdressage@equestrian.ca not more than **5 days prior to departure for the 2026 NAYC**, a written statement signed by a veterinarian, other than the horse's regular treating veterinarian, confirming that his or her horse is fit to compete. (sample form will be provided to athletes shortly after team selection). The affidavit must also include a statement to confirm that the veterinarian is not the regular treating veterinarian for the horse in question.



8. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

8.1 The schooling of horses, at all qualifying competitions and at 2026 NAYC, will be in accordance with the FEI Rules for Dressage. A signed declaration to this effect must be completed and submitted with qualification scores via the online score submission portal at [2026 Score Submission, Whip and FEI compliance declaration portal](#) no later than **9 a.m. ET on Monday, June 15, 2026**

8.2 All athletes selected to participate at the 2026 NAYC, as well as the legal owner(s) of the horse the selected athlete will compete on at the 2026 NAYC, and the groom MUST sign their respective Release Waiver that is part of the 2026 NAYC certification process. These forms, once assigned to the individual, will be on the individual's Ecampus.

Signing the applicable Release Waiver shall be a condition precedent to participating at the 2026 NAYC. **Signed Waivers must be completed and submitted no later than 9 a.m. ET on Monday, June 15, 2026.**



ATTACHMENT A

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (NAYC) TEAM SELECTION GOALS, GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIES

The NAYC is an athlete development opportunity for our future Canadian equestrian stars. Athlete/horse combinations must qualify for consideration and are selected through the published and posted criteria for the FEI North American Children, Junior, Young Rider Championship, Dressage Division. Qualification scores are used to select the Provincial Teams, Combined Provincial Teams, and Individual(s).

Selection Goals:

(Where permitted by the criteria and the rules of the competition)

- Maximize the number of athlete/horse combinations representing Canada at NAYC
- Maximize the experience for each athlete/horse combination to the full extent.
- Maximize the opportunities for each athlete/horse combination by selecting athlete/horse combinations to Teams, where possible, allowing the athlete the opportunity to participate for both Team and Individual medals

Team Selection Guidelines and Priorities:

The priorities are listed in descending order with the highest priority beginning at 1 and lowest at 6.

1. Provincial Team comprised of four (4) athlete/horse combinations *(Where a Provincial Team of four (4) athlete/horse combinations has been selected, no additional athlete/horse combinations from that Province may be entered to compete in the Championships for another Province or as Individuals)*
2. Combined Provincial Team comprised of three (3) athlete/horse combinations from a Province plus one (1) athlete/horse combination from a Province with only one (1) athlete/horse combination qualified *(Once athlete/horse combinations from a province have been selected to a Team no additional athlete/horse combinations from that Province may be entered to compete in the Championships for another Province or as Individuals)*
3. Combined Provincial Team comprised of four (4) athlete/horse combinations from up to four (4) different Provinces. This could be combinations of:
 - two (2) athlete/horse combinations from one Province and two (2) athlete/horse combinations from another Province;
 - two (2) athlete/horse combinations from one Province, one (1) athlete/horse combination from another Province and one (1) athlete/horse combination from a third Province;
 - four (4) athlete/horse combinations from four (4) different Provinces.*(Once athlete/horse combinations from a province have been selected to a Team no additional athlete/horse combinations from that Province may be entered to compete in the Championships for another Province or as Individuals, unless through the substitution process described in s. 14 of the criteria)*
4. Provincial Team of three (3) athlete/horse combinations from the same Province in cases where only 3 athlete/horse combinations qualified and have not been combined with a 4th athlete/horse combination from another Province.



5. Combined Provincial Team comprised of three (3) athlete/horse combinations.
6. Individual athletes. Up to two athlete/horse combinations from the same Province may be selected on this basis from each Province with less than 3 qualified athlete/horse combinations provided no athlete/horse combination from that Province has already been selected to for a Combined Provincial Team.



NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS CHECK LIST – DRESSAGE

Declaration - Due March 27, 2026

- Online Declaration
 - Submit using EC Major Games and Championships Portal (new/edit your profile)
 - <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login.aspx>
- Appendix 1 – Statement of Interest
- Appendix 2 – Competition Schedule
- Appendix 3 – Athlete Profile

- EC Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments online course
- EC Concussion Awareness online course
- EC Athlete/Participant Agreement

Registration/Licences – Due March 27, 2026

- EC Platinum Sport Licence (Athlete)
- FEI Athlete Registration
- FEI Horse Registration (FEI Document and yearly FEI Registration) Please be advised that it typically takes a minimum of 4 weeks to complete a FEI document application if your horse does not already hold a FEI document.
- EC Licensed Coach Status (Canadian individuals coaching athletes at NAYC) or equivalent

TUE Application (if applicable) – Due March 27, 2026

- TUE Application
 - Submit via CCES
 - <https://www.cces.ca/medical-exemptions>

Accreditation – All personnel will have 2 weeks to complete once teams are named. Failure to complete within the 2 weeks may result in accreditation not being issued.

- EC Online Screening Disclosure Agreement
- Criminal Record Check
- Vulnerable Sector Check (Coaches or if required based on Criminal Record Check Results)
- EC Non-Disclosure Agreement
- EC International Travel Waiver
- EC Minor Consent Letter (if applicable)
- EC Medical Information Form
- CCES True Sport Clean online course
- Athlete Release of Liability & Waiver



- Groom/Athlete Companion/Team Personnel Release of Liability & Waiver
- Owner Release of Liability & Waiver

Monday, June 15, 2026, Complete and submit on or before 9 a.m. ET:

- Score Report, Whip Declaration, FEI compliance Declaration via the [2026 Score Submission, Whip and FEI compliance declaration portal](#)**
 - Attach your test cover pages or official class results.
 - Include the competition information, date, judges, and scores, etc.



APPENDIX 1

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I, _____ (*print name*) do hereby declare my interest in being considered for selection to the Canadian Team for NAYC in the following category:

Jumping:

Children's Team Pre-Junior Team Junior Team Young Rider Team

Dressage:

Children's Team Junior Team Young Rider Team U25 Team

I acknowledge that I have (please include your initial beside each statement):

___ Created or updated my profile **AND** submitted my official declaration to the EC Major Games and Championships Portal. <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login.aspx>

___ Read the NAYC Criteria in its entirety and fully understand my financial obligations as detailed in Section 6 (Expenses) if I am selected, and the anti-doping requirements for human and equine.

___ Confirmed with each owner(s) their willingness for the declared Horse(s) to participate in the NAYC under the conditions established if I am selected.

___ Understood that Equestrian Canada (the Selectors) will choose the team at their sole discretion.

Signature of athlete:

Date:

Signature of parent/guardian (if a minor) **Submit to**

jumping@equestrian.ca (Jumping)
youthteams@equestrian.ca (Dressage)

by March 27, 2026



APPENDIX 2

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

May Show Schedule

June Show Schedule

July Show Schedule

Submit to
jumping@equestrian.ca (Jumping)
youthteams@equestrian.ca (Dressage)
by March 27, 2026



APPENDIX 3

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

ATHLETE PROFILE

If necessary, please feel free to use additional sheets to provide further information

Athlete Information	
Athlete Name:	
Hometown:	
Horse(s)'s Name(s):	
Coach/Trainer's Name:	
Grooms Name: (must be 18 or older)	
Personal Accomplishments (Education, Equestrian and Other):	
Horse(s)'s Accomplishments and/or Unique Traits:	
Interests Outside of Horses:	

Submit to
jumping@equestrian.ca (Jumping)
youthteams@equestrian.ca (Dressage)
by March 28, 2026