



EQUESTRIAN CANADA ÉQUESTRE

REGULATIONS AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETES AND HORSES COMPETING CCI- L, CCI- S AND CCI EVENTING COMPETITIONS

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Draft Monday December 1, 2025, Approved by the HPAG on Friday January 30, 2026. *These qualification criteria are established to comply with FEI Regulations and, therefore, may be modified throughout the year.*

FEI CATEGORIZATION 2025
CCI 5* - L
CCI 4* - L
CCI 4* - S
CCI 3* - L
CCI 3* - S
CCI 2* - L
CCI 2* - S
CCI 1*

1. REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS FOR ENTRY AUTHORIZATION

All Canadian athletes and horses must be authorized by Equestrian Canada to compete in FEI competitions.

Authorization of entries utilizes the Equestrian Canada – Eventing FEI Authorization Portal
<https://licence.equestrian.ca/ccicic/login.aspx>

Entries for eligible Athlete/Horse combinations that have followed the process described below will be authorized/validated by Equestrian Canada according to FEI regulations and process. Confirmation of the entry authorization is indicated in the Authorization Portal when the entry is validated in the FEI entry system.

The eligibility requirements and process apply to all FEI-sanctioned Eventing competitions. (CCI-L, CCI-S and CCI)

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

a. ATHLETE AND HORSE OWNER EC SPORT LICENSE

1. In order for the athlete to access the EC Authorization Portal to submit the entry, a 2026 EC Platinum Sport License is required. The link is:
<https://licence.equestrian.ca/myec/login?lang=en>
2. The horse owner must have a 2026 EC Platinum Sport License for the entry to be authorized/validated.

b. FEI - HORSE AND ATHLETE 2026 REGISTRATION and EC HORSE ACTIVATION

1. Athlete and Horse must be registered for 2026
 - For Athletes not previously registered with the FEI, the link is:
<https://licence.equestrian.ca/feireg/login.aspx>



- For Athletes registered FEI in 2025: updated 2026 registration is required through their personal MY EC Sport License account. The link is:
<https://licence.equestrian.ca/myec/login?lang=en>
- Canadian owned horses must be registered with EC and FEI by the Owner through their personal MY EC Sport license account. The link is:
<https://licence.equestrian.ca/myec/login?lang=en>
- To verify an FEI registration (person and/or horse) the link is:
<https://data.fei.org/Default.aspx>
- Canadian owned horses require an EC Annual Horse Activation. The owner activates the horse with EC through their personal MY EC Sport license account. The link is:
<https://licence.equestrian.ca/myec/login?lang=en>
- For Horse Identification Document Requirements, see **Section 3** and **Appendix 2**

3. HORSE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FEI COMPETITIONS

Horses must have a current and validated approved FEI Horse Identification document. The type of FEI Horse Identification Document required depends on several factors.

For a summary of requirements, please refer to Appendix 2.

As a general guideline, full FEI documents (i.e. an FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card AND FEI approved identification document) are required for all horses competing in CCI-L /CCI-S 4*s or above and for all Canadian owned horses competing in a foreign country.

Canadian-owned horses competing in all FEI 1 and /2* / 3* divisions in Canada do not need to be in possession of a FEI Passport or FEI Recognition card but at minimum are required to hold an [FEI approved identification document](#), including but not limited to an EC National Passport, and must hold an FEI Registration for every year they are competing at the FEI level.*

Horses without an approved FEI Identification document MUST obtain a New FEI Recognized EC National Passport OR FEI Recognition Card plus EC National Passport.

All horses require an annual FEI Horse Registration and Canadian owned horses require an EC Horse Activation.

Horse Micro Chipping All Horses competing in FEI competitions are required to be micro chipped compatible with ISO 11784 and ISO 11785. The micro- chip number must be listed in the FEI passport and must be registered with the FEI through Equestrian Canada.

Resource Link: <https://www.equestrian.ca/programs-services/horseid/fei>

Resource Link: <https://www.equestrian.ca/programs-services/horseid/national>



4. ENTRY PROCESS - ATHLETES AND HORSES - ALL FEI COMPETITIONS

<i>SUBMIT ENTRY And MER RESULTS</i>	<p>Athlete submits the entry and performance result information (Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) using the Equestrian Canada - Eventing FEI Authorization Online Portal.</p> <p>The Portal link is: https://licence.equestrian.ca/ccicic/login.aspx</p> <p>To submit the entry information – the Athlete and the Horse owner must have a 2026 EC Platinum sport license and the Athlete and Horse must be registered with FEI for 2026. Horse must also be registered with EC for 2026.</p> <p>Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) results must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name and date and the division of each MER competition• Complete performance result information (dressage cross country- jump & time, show jumping- jump) <p>DEADLINE: Entry with *performance result information must be submitted in the Portal prior to the closing date of the competition and at least 7 working days before the start of the competition. Late entries will be subject to a fine of \$75.00 CAD.</p> <p>* see Section 7.2 and 7.3 for performance results required</p>
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Note 1. *Entry information submitted online through the Equestrian Canada – Eventing Authorization Portal does not enter the athlete in the competition. Athletes are responsible for sending entries and fees to the applicable Organizing Committee.*

Note 2. *Entries submitted in the Portal the week of the competition may not be validated.*

5. WITHDRAWALS

In the case of withdrawals of authorized entries after the date of definite entries or no-shows, the athlete must immediately inform both the OC, and EC in writing by email at feiservices@equestrian.ca. The athlete will be held liable to reimburse the OC for the actual financial loss incurred by the OC (i.e. stabling expenses) due to the late withdrawal or no-show. In addition, any additional costs incurred by the OC for late entries is the athlete's responsibility.

6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION – ATHLETES AND HORSES

Athletes should consult the FEI Rules for Eventing effective Jan 1, 2026- and any subsequent modifications- see FEI website www.insidefei.org.

6.1 Principles: To compete at an international (FEI) event, athletes and horses must have fulfilled the technical criteria set by EC. The eligibility to compete will be determined by a combination of the following:



6.1.1 The Athlete's category as determined by the FEI (Uncategorized, FEI D, C, B, A) - Section 6.4

6.1.2 The category and star level of the competition

6.1.3 The number of Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) achieved according to the eligibility matrix of requirements – Section 7.

A specific level/type of qualification is reached by achieving a set number of MERs at applicable competitions. **An Organizing Committee may impose additional qualifications that must be published in the event schedule with the approval of its own NF and the FEI.**

Authorization by Equestrian Canada is dependent on the Athlete and Horse achieving FEI and Canadian Eligibility Requirements. FEI and Canadian Minimum Eligibility Requirements may be achieved at the same competition if appropriate.

6.2 Definition of a FEI / Canadian Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) (FEI Art 517)

A Minimum Eligibility requirement (MER) is achieved by completing a competition within minimum parameters of all-round performance as follows:

6.2.1 **Dressage Test:** Not more than 45 penalty points (55%)

6.2.2 **Cross Country Test:**

- Clear round at obstacles (see Paragraph 7 for exemptions). Activating a maximum of one frangible/ deformable device or having a maximum of one missing flag will maintain MER result on cross country.
- Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the cross-country phase for one, two, three and four-star competitions (30 penalty points) and 100 seconds at five-star competitions (40 penalty points).

6.2.3 **Jumping Test:** Not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

Note: All MERS before 2017 will be counted according to the rules in place at that time

6.3 **Minimum Eligibility Requirement Validity Period** (FEI Art 518)

The valid period for obtaining a Minimum Eligibility Requirement is anytime until at least 24 days before the cross-country test of the competition (CCI- L or CCI-S) for which it is needed if the MER has been achieved at a CCI-L.

7. FEI ATHLETE CATEGORIES (FEI Art 519)

Athletes are categorized by the FEI (Uncategorized, International D, C, B, A) according to the performance criteria achieved. The Athlete category will be updated according to the performances at the



end of each month taking into account the rolling four and a half years (4.5) in order to take into consideration, the cancellation of events due to the 2020 Covid pandemic. The Athlete category at the closing date of definite entries prevails.

FEI Athlete categories for Eventing define a recognition of proven competence of the athlete at a certain level. Such categories will determine the different requirements of participation according to the Matrix of FEI and Canadian Eligibility Requirements (Section 7).

FEI Athlete Category	Performance Criteria
D	Ten (10) MER at FEI short (CCI-S) or long (CCI-L) format competitions of two star level or above; or three (3) MERs at FEI short (CCI-S) or long (CCI-L) format competitions at higher level.
C	Ten (10) MER at FEI short (CCI-S) or long (CCI-L) format competitions of three star level or above; or three (3) MERs at FEI short (CCI-S) or long (CCI-L) format competitions at higher level.
B	Ten (10) MER at FEI short (CCI-S) or long (CCI-L) format competitions of four star level or above; or three (3) MERs at FEI long format (CCI-Ls) competitions at five star level.
A	Ten (10) MER at FEI short (CCI-S) or long (CCI-L) format competitions of four star level or above of which three (3) at five star level

Athletes that have yet to achieve the above criteria are categorized as **Uncategorized**.

7.1 FEI Art. 518.3 CCI4*-L and CCI5*-L additional requirements

Horses having not completed the Cross Country test of an FEI Competition for a period* of 13 consecutive months or more will have to fulfil the below additional requirement(s) before entering a CCI4*-S/L or CCI5*-L event as follows:

Horses having obtained a MER at CCI4*-S or CCI3*-S/L:

- to enter a CCI4*-S: must complete the Cross Country test of a CCI3*-S/L
- to enter a CCI4*-L: must complete the Cross Country test of a CCI4*-S and a CCI3*-S/L

Horses having obtained a MER at CCI4*-L:

- to enter a CCI4*-L or CCI5*-L: must complete the Cross Country test of a CCI4*-S

Horses having obtained a MER at CCI5*-L:

- to enter a CCI5*-L: must complete the Cross Country test of a CCI4*-S/L

*Period calculated from the date of the cross-country test of the first event to the date of the cross-country test of the following event.



8. FEI / CANADIAN MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CCI COMPETITIONS (Art 520)

8.1 The following describes the requirements for authorization in the different formats, categories, and levels of FEI competitions.

- The 1st activation of a frangible /deformable device (11 penalties) or having a maximum of one (1) missing flag (15 penalties) will still allow a MER.
- When multiple MERs are required to achieve the FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement, one of the results can be achieved by incurring 20 penalty points at obstacles of the cross-country test unless otherwise indicated. Canadian MERS must include 0 frangible devices, no missing flags, and no jumping penalties cross-country.
- For Championships and Games **all** MERs must include zero jumping penalties cross country (exception 1st activation of a frangible /deformable device or missing a maximum of one flag) will still be recorded as an MER.
- Where a MER at a CCI-S is required, a MER at a CCI-L of the same level is equally acceptable (Providing the MER result complies with the FEI validity period for the competition).

Athletes already categorized at the corresponding level or above may either use the full FEI requirements for uncategorized Athletes as a combination or the Minimum Eligibility Requirements according to the Athlete's categorization

The Minimum Eligibility Requirements must be achieved as a combination (unless specified otherwise) according to the following tables

8.2 MATRIX FOR ATHLETES / HORSES FOR UNIFIED FORMAT COMPETITIONS

Level	Category	FEI Requirements	Canadian Requirements
CCI1*-INTRO	Uncategorized Athletes	There are no requirements at the CCI1* level	2 MERs at EV100 or EV105 Horse Trials <i>Both must be clear cross country.</i>
	D or C or B or A Athletes	There are no requirements for categorized riders at the CCI1* level	1 MER at EV 100 or EV105 Horse Trial <i>Must be clear cross country.</i>

8.3 MATRIX FOR ATHLETES / HORSES FOR CCI – S (SHORT FORMAT) COMPETITIONS

Level	Category	FEI Requirements	Canadian Requirements
CCI2*-S	Uncategorized Athletes	There are no requirements at the CCI2*-S level	2 EV 110 Horse Trials <i>Both must be clear cross country.</i>
	D or C or B or A Athletes	There are no requirements for categorized riders at the CCI2*-S level	1 EV 110 Horse Trials <i>Must be clear cross country.</i>



Level	Category	FEI Requirements	Canadian Requirements
CCI3*-S	Uncategorized Athletes	1 CCI2*S	1 EV115 Horse Trials. <i>Must be clear cross country.</i>
	D Athletes	There are no requirements for categorized riders at the CCI3*-S level	1 EV115 Horse Trial <i>Must be clear cross country.</i>
	C or B or A Athletes	There are no requirements for categorized riders at the CCI3*-S level	1 EV115 Horse Trial <i>Must be clear cross country.</i>
CCI4*-S	Uncategorized or D or C Athletes	3 CCI3*-S	No additional requirements
	B or A Athletes	1 CCI3*-S (Horse Only)	No additional requirements

8.4 MATRIX FOR ATHLETES and HORSES FOR CCI – L (LONG FORMAT) COMPETITIONS

Level	Category	FEI Requirements	Canadian Requirements
CCI2*-L	All Athletes	There are no requirements at the CCI2*-L level	2 EV 110 Horse Trials Both must be clear cross country.
CCI3*-L	Uncategorized Athletes	2 CCI3*-S and (1 CCI2*-L or 1 CCI3*-S)	No additional requirements
	D Athletes	1 CCI3*-S or 1 CCI2*-L	No additional requirements
	C or B or A Athletes	1 CC3*-S or 1 CCI2*-L (Horse only)	No additional requirements
CCI4*-L	Uncategorized or D or C Athletes	2 CCI3*-L and 1 CCI4*S or 1 CCI3*-L and 2 CCI4*-S	No additional requirements
	B or A Athletes	1 CCI3*-L (Horse Only)	No additional requirements
CCI5*-L	Uncategorized or D or C Athletes	2 CCI4*-L and 3 CCI4*-S	No additional requirements
	B Athletes	1 CCI4*-L and 3 CCI4*-S	No additional requirements
	A Athletes with Horses having not obtained yet a MER at a CCI5*-L Competition	1 CCI4*-L	No additional requirements
	A Athletes with Horses having already obtained a MER at a CCI5*-L Competition	2 CCI4*-S or 1 CCI4*-L	No additional requirements

9. EXEMPTION FROM THE CANADIAN MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

For FEI Categorized A, B, C or D athletes or all athletes at the CCI1* level - There may be certain and limited exemptions from Canadian Minimum Eligibility Requirements provided there is demonstrated achievement of the FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements.



Applications for exemption to the Canadian Minimum Eligibility Requirement must be submitted to Emily Gilbert, the Eventing Manager at Equestrian Canada egilbert@equestrian.ca.

The application must be submitted electronically in writing and must be received not less than ten days prior to the first day of the applicable competition. Applications may not be considered if received after the deadline.

The application must include: 1. the rationale for the request; 2. a detailed horse and the athlete's performance summary reflecting results from National and International events during the current and previous two calendar years and including the results that verify that athlete and horse have met the FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements; 3. a letter of support from the athlete's personal coach.

10. REVERSE QUALIFICATION (FEI Art 522)/ RETURN TO PLAY

Horse: A reverse qualification is the obligation for a Horse to show restored competence at a lower level (MER) after a number of unsuccessful attempts at a certain level.

A reverse qualification of the horse is triggered by

- two consecutive cross-country eliminations, OR
- a total of three cross-country eliminations within a 12-month rolling period in international competitions

For this purpose, the relevant reasons of elimination on Cross Country would be:

- a. Three (3) refusals
- b. Fall of Horse or Athletes
- c. Dangerous riding
- d. Elimination by the Ground Jury

Reverse qualifications remain unless cleared by an MER

Athlete: In addition to the above, should an athlete be fully involved with two consecutive reverse qualifications at FEI competitions within a 12-month period rolling period, the athlete's category will drop down one level for one year as of the date of the second reverse qualification.

One XC elimination can trigger 2 reverse qualifications if it fulfils the criteria of two consecutive Cross Country eliminations and three within a twelve months rolling period.

For detailed FEI rules pertaining to Reverse Qualification, including the requirements for re-establishing qualification and for consequences should an athlete be involved in two reverse qualifications within a 12-month rolling period of time – consult FEI Rules for Eventing Art 522.



11. PENALTIES FOR NON-SUBMISSION, LATE SUBMISSION OR SUBMITTING INCOMPLETE INFORMATION TO EQUESTRIAN CANADA TO ATTAIN AUTHORIZATION TO COMPETE.

- **\$75.00 CAD fee per occurrence** will be charged to the athlete.
- Five or more occurrences within a 12-month period: Disciplinary action of up to six months suspension at a time frame determined by Equestrian Canada – Eventing High-Performance Advisory Group.

12. ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletes are responsible for remaining informed of and complying with all applicable FEI rules, including tack, veterinary, and equine anti-doping and medication regulations. Athletes must also ensure that all required veterinary information and documentation are accurately completed and submitted within required timelines. Failure to comply may result in ineligibility or removal from competitions.

13. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND GAMES– CHS

Selection Criteria are developed by the Equestrian Canada -Eventing High Performance Advisory Group for Senior Championships on a competition-specific basis. Such competitions may include World Championships - Eventing, Pan American Games – Eventing, Olympic Games- Eventing

14. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FEI EVENTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS U25

Selection Criteria are developed by the Equestrian Canada -Eventing High Performance Advisory Group for U25 Championships on a competition-specific basis.



APPENDIX 1

Acronyms / Definitions

FEI - Fédération Equestre Internationale – the IF for equestrian sport www.insidefei.org

CCI - L Concours Complet International long - the FEI sanctioned international long format eventing competition (formerly known as CCI)

CCI - S Concours Complet International short -- the FEI sanctioned international short format eventing competition (formerly known as a CIC)

CCIO - L Denotes a long format unofficial team

Competition CCIO - S Denotes a short format team

Competition Nations Cup

Star levels Effective January 1, 2019 all IF sanctioned eventing competitions are defined by five star levels – from 1* (international introduction level) to 5* (FEI classics, Olympic Games, World Championships level). Both 5* and 4* competitions are qualification opportunities for Olympics and World Championships.

Factors which contribute to the designation of a star level include but not limited to: maximum height and spread of the obstacles, distance of the cross country course, time allowed to complete the cross country course without penalty, types and placement of obstacles, technical questions in cross country and jumping tests (combinations of obstacles vs single obstacles), and technical movements required in the dressage test

Star levels are subject to modification by the International Federation



APPENDIX 2

FEI Identification Document Requirements – for Canadian Owned Horses only

Canadian-owned horses competing in all FEI 1 and /2* / 3* divisions in Canada do not need to be in possession of a FEI Passport or FEI Recognition card- But at minimum are required to hold an FEI approved identification document, including but not limited to an EC National Passport, and must hold an FEI Registration for every year they are competing at the FEI level.*

*Horses without an approved FEI Identification document, **MUST** obtain a New FEI Recognized EC National Passport OR FEI Recognition Card plus EC National Passport, EC annual Horse Activation and FEI annual Horse Registration*

Definition: ** FEI Approved National Horse identification Document is an EC National passport, OR other FEI approved National Passport or breed document

Please refer to the [FEI's list of Approved National Identification Documents](#)

Competition	Within Canada	International
FEI 1*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May compete with an ** <u>FEI approved national identification document</u>, <p><i>Or:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) FEI Recognition card <p><i>And:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current FEI registration Current EC Horse Activation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) <p><i>Or:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Recognition card <p><i>And:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current FEI Registration Current EC Horse Activation
FEI 2*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May compete with an ** <u>FEI approved national identification document</u>, <p><i>Or:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) FEI Recognition card <p><i>And:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current FEI registration Current EC Horse Activation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) <p><i>Or:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Recognition card <p><i>And:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current FEI Registration Current EC Horse Activation
FEI 3* (Eventing only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May compete with an ** <u>FEI approved national identification document</u>, <p><i>Or:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) FEI Recognition card <p><i>And:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current FEI registration Current EC Horse Activation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) <p><i>Or:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEI Recognition card <p><i>And:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current FEI Registration Current EC Horse Activation



Competition	Within Canada	International
FEI 4*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) <i>Or:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Recognition card <i>And:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current FEI Registration • Current EC Horse Activation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) <i>Or:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Recognition card <i>And:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current FEI Registration • Current EC Horse Activation
FEI 5*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) <i>Or:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Recognition card <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And: • Current FEI Registration • Current EC Horse Activation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Passport (existing or duplicate) <i>Or:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Recognition card <i>And:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current FEI Registration • Current EC Horse Activation



Canada 