



# 2026 FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

## EQUESTRIAN CANADA SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCEDURES - DRESSAGE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out the selection criteria and procedures (“Selection Criteria”) that Equestrian Canada (“EC”) will use to select athlete/horse combinations to compete at the 2026 FEI World Championships Aachen (“2026 WC”) for Dressage scheduled for August 11 – 15, 2026.
- 1.2 Discipline-specific Selection Criteria are outlined in *Appendix 1*. Questions specific to the Selection Criteria should be directed to the Discipline Manager (“DM”) Christine Peters at: [cpeters@equestrian.ca](mailto:cpeters@equestrian.ca).
- 1.3 Athlete/horse combinations must meet the expectations as outlined in these Selection Criteria in order to be considered for selection.
- 1.4 Athletes and owners who choose to participate in the selection process acknowledge by their participation and declaration that meeting the requirements outlined in these Selection Criteria does not guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be selected.
- 1.5 It is important for the integrity of the selection process that athletes, grooms, owners, athlete companions, carer, team support personnel and associated parties involved in the selection process, practice at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection, and/or any selection decisions. All confidential information, conversations, and discussions will be identified as such. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the selection process.
- 1.6 If there is a difference in interpretation between this document’s French and English versions, then the English version shall prevail.
- 1.7 Any intentional misrepresentation of information submitted for selection consideration may in the sole discretion of EC, eliminate the athlete/horse combination from both the qualifying process and from consideration for selection.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 To be eligible for selection consideration for the 2026 WC, the following minimum eligibility requirements listed in this section must be met:
  - 2.2 **Athlete**
    - Be a Canadian citizen at the time of declaration and until the conclusion of the 2026 WC
    - Have a Canadian passport that is valid until at least **November 23, 2026**
    - Meet the European Union’s travel requirements that are in place at the time of the 2026 WC including the [European Travel Information and Authorization System \(“ETIAS”\)](#) and meet the [European Union’s Entry/Exit System \(“EES”\)](#)
    - Be eligible to travel to any required quarantine/training camp and the 2026 WC



- Be in compliance with all relevant International Federation (“FEI”) requirements for eligibility
- Be a member in good standing (Platinum Sport Licence Holder) with EC
- Hold a current FEI Registration and be in good standing with the FEI
- Sign and submit the EC Athlete/Participant Agreement and adhere to all EC policies related to team preparation, training, and competition. This includes compliance with:
  - [Safe Sport policies](#)
  - [The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport \(“UCCMS”\)](#)
  - [Canadian Safe Sport Program](#), as applicable
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes by the required deadlines, including for the [Canadian Anti-Doping Program \(“CADP”\)](#)
- Meet minimum athlete age requirements as per the 2026 FEI Regulations:
  - Dressage: 16 years of age in 2026, born on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

#### 2.3 Horse

- Meet minimum horse age requirements as per the 2026 FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events:
  - Dressage: 8 years of age in 2026, born on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018
- Possess a valid FEI Horse Registration document (passport) and be in good standing

#### 2.4 Groom

- Be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of the 2026 WC
- Have a passport that is valid until at least [November 23, 2026](#)
- Meet the European Union’s travel requirements that are in place at the time of the 2026 WC including the [European Travel Information and Authorization System \(“ETIAS”\)](#) and meet the [European Union’s Entry/Exit System \(“EES”\)](#)
- Be eligible to travel to any required quarantine/training camp and the 2026 WC
- Have experience competing or grooming at international equestrian competitions
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes by the required deadlines, including for the [CADP](#)
- Sign and submit the EC Athlete/Participant Agreement and adhere to all EC policies related to team preparation, training, and competition. This includes compliance with:
  - [Safe Sport policies](#)
  - [The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport \(“UCCMS”\)](#)
  - [Canadian Safe Sport Program](#), as applicable

#### 2.5 Owner

- Have a passport that is valid until at least [November 23, 2026](#)
- Meet the European Union’s travel requirements that are in place at the time of the 2026 WC including the [European Travel Information and Authorization System \(“ETIAS”\)](#) and meet the [European Union’s Entry/Exit System \(“EES”\)](#)
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes by the required deadlines
- At minimum one Owner must be listed as an owner in the FEI horse passport unless the horse is owned by a syndicate
- Must sign and submit the EC Athlete/Participant Agreement and adhere to all EC policies related to team preparation, training, and competition. This includes compliance with:
  - [Safe Sport policies](#)
  - [The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport \(“UCCMS”\)](#)
  - [Canadian Safe Sport Program](#), as applicable

#### 2.6 Support Team Members

- Have a passport that is valid until at least [November 23, 2026](#)



- Meet the European Union's travel requirements that are in place at the time of the 2026 WC including the [European Travel Information and Authorization System \("ETIAS"\)](#) and meet the [European Union's Entry/Exit System \("EES"\)](#)
- Be eligible to travel to any required quarantine/training camp and the 2026 WC
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes by the required deadlines
- Must sign and submit the EC Athlete/Participant Agreement and adhere to all EC policies related to team preparation, training, and competition. This includes compliance with:
  - [Safe Sport policies](#)
  - [The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport \("UCCMS"\)](#)
  - [Canadian Safe Sport Program](#), as applicable

## 2.7 Athlete Companion (should accreditation be available)

- Have a passport that is valid until at least [November 23, 2026](#)
- Meet the European Union's travel requirements that are in place at the time of the 2026 WC including the [European Travel Information and Authorization System \("ETIAS"\)](#) and meet the [European Union's Entry/Exit System \("EES"\)](#)
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes by the required deadlines
- Must sign and submit the EC Athlete/Participant Agreement and adhere to all EC policies related to team preparation, training, and competition. This includes compliance with:
  - [Safe Sport policies](#)
  - [The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport \("UCCMS"\)](#)
  - [Canadian Safe Sport Program](#), as applicable

## 3 DECLARATION AND ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES

### Declaration

3.1 **Deadline Date:** Athletes must submit a declaration for the 2026 WC to EC through the EC Games Portal on or before [12 midnight ET, January 7, 2026](#). Failure to submit the required information and documents by this deadline will make the declaration incomplete and invalid. *No late declarations will be accepted, except for already declared athletes in accordance with Section 3.8.*

3.2 **Purpose:** The declaration date allows sufficient time for the Accreditation Process to be completed for athletes, grooms, owners, and support team personnel.

3.3 **Process:** The declaration MUST be made through the EC Games Portal at

- New users: <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/register?user=new>
- Existing users: <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login.aspx>

3.4 **Fees:** Declaration fees, if any, are outlined in *Appendix 1*.

### At the time of declaration, the athlete MUST provide:

3.5 **Horses:** The name, FEI passport number, and FEI passport expiry date for each declared horse, *Please refer to Section 2.3 for horse eligibility.*

3.6 **Grooms:** The name, *unique e-mail address*, and phone number for a minimum of two (2) up to a maximum of four (4) declared grooms in priority order. Athletes are responsible for ensuring that their groom is eligible (*please refer to Section 2.4 for groom eligibility*), kept informed, and available for the time commitments in the proposed schedule for 2026 WC (an expected four-week commitment which includes any potential staging camp period). Should a groom not carry out their assigned duties and obligations or exhibit inappropriate



behavior detrimental to the team, then EC has the authority to remove such groom from the team. Please refer to the discipline-specific Selection Criteria in **Appendix 1** for additional groom information, as applicable.

3.7 **Owners:** The name, **unique e-mail 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 passport. In the case of syndicate ownership groups, declared athlete/horse owners do not need to be individually listed in the FEI passport, but must be individually declared in priority for accreditation purposes. *Please refer to Section 2.5 for owner eligibility.*

**At the time of declaration, the athlete may provide:**

3.8 **Athlete Companions:** The name, **unique e-mail address**, and phone number for up to two (2) declared athlete companions, in priority order for accreditation purposes. *Please refer to Section 2.7 for athlete companion eligibility.*

3.9 **Declaration Date Exception:** Except as set out in this **Section 3.8**, athletes may not submit a declaration after the **12 midnight ET, January 7, 2026** deadline.

3.9.1 In the case of a horse being made available **to an already declared athlete** after the declaration deadline to form a “New athlete/horse combination”, EC may, in its sole discretion, accept this athlete/horse combination as a declared candidate for the 2026 WC.

3.9.2 Additional athlete/horse combinations must be submitted in writing to EC at the earliest date possible, and no later than **March 30, 2026**.

**Note 1:** Horse owner accreditation may not be possible for new horses declared after the **12 midnight ET, January 7, 2026** deadline.

**Note 2:** “New athlete/horse combination(s)” are defined as either a:

- new horse purchase, or
- horse transfer to an already declared athlete

3.10 **Withdrawal:** Declared athletes who subsequently choose to withdraw from the selection process (either themselves or their horse) prior to the naming of the team and alternates must advise the EC DM of their decision in writing.

**Accreditation**

3.11 **Process:** The accreditation process for the 2026 WC will be coordinated through EC. To help facilitate this process, the athletes’ declaration in the EC Games Portal must include the personal **unique e-mail addresses** and phone numbers for all potential grooms, owners and athlete companions. Any subsequent changes to accreditation details, i.e. new owners, grooms etc., must be reported to the DM immediately in writing. Athletes, grooms, owners, athlete companions and team personnel are not permitted to apply directly to the Aachen Organizing Committee (“OC”) for accreditation.

3.12 **Allocation:** EC has the exclusive authority to select and allocate accreditations for the grooms, owners, athlete companions and team personnel who comprise the Canadian Equestrian Team (“CET”) to represent Canada at the 2026 WC. Accreditations for 2026 WC are limited and are allocated based on the needs of the entire team and on what EC decides will lead to the best team performance at the 2026 WC.

3.13 **Information Deadline:** Athletes, grooms, owners, athlete companions and team support personnel are to provide all necessary accreditation information, including photos and passport details and personal information, in the EC Games Portal by the Declaration deadlines outlined in **Sections 3.1** and **3.8** above.



3.14 **Declared list:** It is very important that information is provided and entered in the EC Games Portal for EVERY possible individual who may attend the 2026 WC in an accredited role (Athlete, Owner, Groom, Athlete Companion, Team Personnel, etc.) prior to the declaration deadline referenced in **Section 3.12**. Participation in this process does not guarantee accreditation nor selection.

#### **Release of Liability Waiver**

3.14 All declared athletes, grooms, owners, athlete companions and team personnel must complete and return the release of liability waivers to the DM within 7 days following notification of their selection in July 2026. The waiver and release forms can be found in the following appendices:

- **Appendix 2:** Athlete Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement
- **Appendix 3:** Groom / Athlete Companion/Team Personnel Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement
- **Appendix 4:** Owner Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement
- **Appendix 5:** Release of Veterinary Medical Records

### **4 ANTI-DOPING HUMAN AND EQUINE**

#### **Athlete**

4.1 **Eligibility:** The athlete must not be under suspension or any other sanction by any recognized body for any doping or doping-related offense.

4.2 **Testing:** Declared athletes may be subject to announced and unannounced drug testing in accordance with the **CADP**. Testing includes both in-competition and out-of-competition testing. All athletes who declare for the selection process must provide accurate and up-to-date contact information through the EC Sport Licence portal.

4.3 **Deemed Violation:** Athletes who do not provide up-to-date contact information or respond to EC communications, will be considered in violation of these policies. Violations will be considered in context by the Discipline's High Performance Advisory Group ("HPAG") and may result in the disqualification of the athlete from the selection process.

#### **Horse**

4.4 **Testing:** All declared horses shall be subject to drug testing according to FEI drug and medication rules. Blood, and/or urine, or any other sampling method as instituted by the FEI may be drawn at any time throughout the qualification, selection and quarantine/training camp periods. Samples may be tested for the presence for all prohibited and/or controlled substances by the FEI.

4.5 **Prohibited Substances:** In the event a prohibited substance is detected, the amount of this substance will be quantified where possible and reported to the EC DM. Any horse whose sample contains a prohibited substance or a restricted substance in a concentration greater than the allowable FEI limits may be eliminated from the selection process. Positive test results from samples collected during FEI competition will result in disqualification of that athlete/horse combination in all classes at that competition.

### **5 APPEALS**

5.1 **Grounds:** Athletes participating in the selection process for the 2026 WC have the right to appeal against a selection decision but only on the grounds that the HPG has failed to comply with the correct procedures outlined in the Selection Criteria or has made a patently unreasonable decision based on the Selection Criteria. An appeal must be made in writing to the Independent Third Party Complaint Manager within 72 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the decision. Appeals must be accompanied by an administration fee of \$1,000.00 (CAD) as per the published EC Schedule of Fees, unless waived by EC, in its sole discretion, as set out in s.74 of the EC Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Policy approved April 14, 2025. The EC Discipline, Complaints and Appeal Policy can be found [HERE](#).



5.2 **Process:** In recognition of the short timelines required for the selection decision process, any appeals to decisions made under the Selection Criteria will proceed under the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (“SDRCC”) appeal process. The administration fee referred to in **Section 5.1** will be applied to the fee required for the appeal to SDRCC. All appeals must be resolved prior to final entry deadline for the 2026 WC as determined by the FEI criteria.

## 6 AMENDMENTS TO THE SELECTION CRITERIA

6.1 The Selection Criteria are based on applicable FEI regulations, conditions and restrictions as currently known and understood, and on the latest information available to EC for DRESSAGE by the FEI.

6.2 Any changes in the Selection Criteria necessitated by a change in FEI regulations will be distributed via email to the declared athletes as soon as reasonably possible. Should such a circumstance occur, EC will review and may amend Selection Criteria to comply with the new regulations or conditions. Any amendments to this document will be communicated directly to all declared athletes via email. Communication will be sent to the email address provided in the EC Games Portal.

6.3 Further, situations may arise that do not allow this Selection Criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including selection decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this Selection Criteria, in consultation with the Director, High Performance, Team Physician, Team Veterinarian, HPG or other individuals or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, EC will communicate with all declared athletes as soon as possible.



## Appendix 1

# DRESSAGE SELECTION CRITERIA

### 1. TEAM/INDIVIDUAL COMPOSITION

- 1.1. **Team Selection:** EC plans to select a team (of three or four athlete/horse combinations) to compete in the dressage competition at the 2026 WC.
- 1.2. **Individual Selection:** Should Canada not obtain a team qualification or should Canada not have enough eligible athlete/horse combinations to form a team for the 2026 WC, then entry in the individual event will be subject to the decision and approval of the HPAG in consultation with the EC Director High Performance (“DHP”) and the Discipline Manager (“DM”), and in accordance with these qualification and selection procedures and the Regulations for the 2026 WC.
- 1.3. The performance objective for the Canadian Dressage team at the 2026 WC is team top 10.

### 2. QUALIFICATION

- 2.1 The Qualification Period (“QP”) for the 2026 WC shall run from **January 1, 2026, to June 28, 2026**, inclusive.
- 2.2 Qualification of athlete/horse combinations for the 2026 WC will consist of a four-stage process:

- 2.2.1 Stage One – EC Declaration
- 2.2.2 Stage Two – FEI Certificate of Capability
- 2.2.3 Stage Three – EC Qualification Score Requirements
- 2.2.4 Stage Four – EC Fitness Inspections

#### 2.2.1 Stage One – EC Declaration

As a condition of declaration for the 2026 WC, an athlete must fulfil the following eligibility conditions:

- 2.2.1.1 An athlete must have achieved a minimum threshold score of 66% in the Grand Prix test at least once from either a national (EC gold or equivalent foreign), or an international (EC platinum or FEI CDI) event with at least one of the horses they are declaring and must have submitted the 2026 WC Declaration and a non-refundable declaration fee of \$500.00 CAD through the EC Games Portal on or before the declaration deadline **January 7, 2026**. Exception see **Section 3.8** of the Selection Criteria.

- 2.2.2.2 An athlete who has **NOT** achieved a minimum threshold score of 66% in the Grand Prix test at least once from either a national (EC gold or equivalent foreign), or an international (EC platinum or FEI CDI) event with at least one of the horses they are declaring, must submit the 2026 WC Declaration and a non-refundable declaration fee of \$1,500.00 CAD through the EC Games Portal on or before the declaration deadline **January 7, 2026**. Exception see **Section 3.8** of the Selection Criteria.

#### 2.2.2 Stage Two – FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) / Certificate of Capability **DRESSAGE**

In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 WC, Athletes and Horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least 66% attributed by the Ground Jury and by any two different FEI Level 4 Dressage Judges, of a nationality other than that of the rider, in a Grand Prix at two different CDI3\*/CDI4\*/CDI5\*/CDI-W or CDIO3\*/CDIO4\*/CDIO5\* events, from 1st January 2025 until the date of nominated entries.



### **2.2.3 Stage Three – EC Qualification Score Requirements**

- 2.2.3.1 Qualification scores must be achieved at CDI3\*, or higher, competitions within the QP (see *Appendix 1, Section 2.1*).
- 2.2.3.2 Athlete/horse combinations must compete in a minimum of four (4) Grand Prix (GP), plus three (3) Grand Prix Special (GPS) classes in the QP to be considered for selection.
- 2.2.3.3 A minimum of one Grand Prix and one Grand Prix Special score must be achieved within the QP after May 13, 2026 and must count towards the athlete's final ranking average.
- 2.2.3.4 All qualification scores must be achieved from a panel of at least five FEI judges.

### **2.2.4 Stage Four – EC Fitness Inspections**

#### **Physician Assessment**

- i. It is of paramount importance that each athlete is fit-to-compete and that the welfare of the athlete is protected. EC and the HPG wish to ensure that no unfit athlete travels to and competes at the 2026 WC. As part of the selection process, the advice from the Team Physician (if appointed or otherwise a treating physician), if so required, will be taken into consideration to ensure athletes considered for selection are healthy and fit-to-compete

#### **Veterinary Assessment**

- i. **Purpose:** It is of paramount importance that the horse be serviceable and that the welfare of the horse be protected at all times. EC and the HPG wish to ensure that no unfit or unsound horse travels to or competes at the 2026WC. All declared horses shall be subject to drug testing according to FEI drug and medication rules. Blood and/or urine samples may be drawn at any time throughout the qualification, selection and quarantine / staging camp periods. Samples may be tested for the presence of substances identified by the FEI as both forbidden and/or controlled. Positive test results from samples collected during FEI competition will result in a zero (0) score for that athlete/horse combination in all classes at that competition. Athletes and owners are responsible and accountable for all positive testing results.
- ii. **Advice:** As part of the selection process, the advice from the Team Veterinarian will be taken into consideration during the selection process to ensure that all horses considered for selection are healthy and fit-to-compete.
- iii. **Assessment:** An assessment for soundness and serviceability for competition will be conducted on all selected horses, including reserve horses, by the Team Veterinarian prior to the departure of the horses for the 2026 WC. Assessments will examine the overall soundness and suitability for competition with consideration of the cause and prognosis of any recognized unsoundness. In the event a selected horse is found to be unfit or unsound during assessment, they may be re-presented within a 24-hr period for re-assessment, by the Team Veterinarian. Should the horse be unable to proceed to the 2026 WC, the HPG will remove the horse based on *Appendix 1, Section 4 SUBSTITUTIONS* below.
- iv. **Communication:** Throughout the selection process, observations and concerns identified by the Team Veterinarian will be communicated orally or in writing to the athlete of the horse in question. The onus will be upon the athlete to take any necessary action in order to follow the recommendations of the Team Veterinarian.



v. **Medical History:** Open and ongoing communication between the regular veterinarian, all treating veterinarians, and the Team Veterinarian is required throughout the qualification period. To ensure proper oversight and preparation of horses for the 2026 World Championships, athletes and owners may be required, upon request, to provide up to six (6) months of complete medical history. This must include all treatments, medications, and supplements administered to declared horses, and must be supplied directly by the regular and/or treating veterinarian(s)

### 3. SELECTION PROCESS

#### 3.1 High Performance Advisory Group (HPAG)

The HPAG is the selection panel for the 2026 WC. The member of the HPAG can be found at:

<https://equestrian.ca/sport/dressage/>

No voting or non-voting member of the HPAG shall participate in any discussions or decisions regarding the selection of any athletes with whom they have a perceived or real conflict of interest. Any member of the HPAG who considers that they are in a position of perceived or real conflict of interest must declare such a conflict before any discussions are held or decisions are made and must remove themselves from all discussions regarding selection until the matter giving rise to the perceived or real conflict of interest has been resolved by the HPAG.

#### 3.2 HPAG Specific Responsibilities

- Oversee the selection of Canadian athlete/horse combinations to represent Canada internationally.
- Support management in dealing with appeals and disciplinary actions related to selection.
- Review athlete development through objective assessment tools in collaboration with the Performance Analyst, for selection purposes.
- Liaise with Team Physician and Team Veterinarian, as required.

#### 3.3 Selection Procedures

3.3.1 All qualifying Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special scores achieved by each declared athlete/horse combination throughout the QP (see *Appendix 1, Section 2.1*), will be used to calculate the combination's final ranking average. Exception, see *Appendix 1, Section 3.3.2* below.

3.3.2 Athlete/horse combinations may discard a maximum of one qualifying Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special score from their final ranking average, however at least three Grand Prix and two Grand Prix Special scores from the QP must be included in the final ranking average and at least one qualifying Grand Prix score and one qualifying Grand Prix Special score must have been achieved after May 13, 2026, and those scores must be included in the final ranking average. See *Appendix 1, Section 2.2.3.3* above.

**Note:** Athlete/horse combinations that retire or are eliminated after entering the competition arena at A will have their score counted as zero. Withdrawals made prior to entering the competition arena at A will not impact the athlete's qualification scores.

3.3.3 The average of all qualifying Grand Prix scores earned during the QP (minus the possible discard score - see *Appendix 1, Section 3.3.2* above) will count for 60% of the combination's final ranking average.

3.3.4 The average of all qualifying Grand Prix Special scores earned during the QP (minus the possible discard score - see *Appendix 1, Section 3.3.2* above) will count for 40% of the combination's final ranking average.



3.3.5 Following the end of the QP (see *Appendix 1, Section 2.1* above) the HPAG will review the final ranking average for all athlete/horse combinations.

3.3.6 For Canada to guarantee the selection of a full team for the 2026 WC the final ranking average for the team must be 70% or higher. Should this not be achieved, selection of a team or selection of individual athlete / horse combinations for the 2026 WC will be subject to the decision and approval of the HPAG in accordance with these qualification and selection procedures and the Regulations for the 2026 WC.

3.3.7 Provided *Appendix 1, Section 3.3.6* above is achieved, then nomination to the team will be determined as outlined below:

**a) Automatic Selection**  
The athlete/horse combination with the highest final ranking average, as specified in *Appendix 1, Sections 3.3.3 and 3.3.4*, will be automatically selected to the 2026 WC team.

**b) Final Team and Reserve Selection**  
The remaining two or three athlete/horse combinations, along with up to two designated reserve combinations, will be selected to form the strongest possible team to represent Canada at the 2026 WC. The HPAG will evaluate athlete/horse combinations based on the following non-exhaustive criteria:

**i. Qualification Scores**  
Assessment of the quality, recency, and consistency of scores achieved during the QP, including but not limited to:

- Consistency of scores across qualifying classes throughout the QP;
- Demonstrated improvement in scores over the duration of the QP;
- Number of qualification scores attained within the final three months of the QP;
- Consistency of performance across various venues, conditions, and judging panels.

**ii. Fitness, Soundness, and Team Contribution Potential**  
Evaluation of the athlete/horse combination's overall fitness, soundness, and their demonstrated or potential ability to contribute to a top-10 team performance at the 2026 WC.

**iii. Previous International Experience**  
Consideration of relevant international competition experience, including but not limited to:

- Whether the athlete or athlete/horse combination has previously represented Canada at CDIO competitions or major games (e.g., Pan American Games, World Championships, Olympic Games), and the significance of their contribution to the team at those events;
- The athlete's or athlete/horse combination's broader international competition record and the impact of their performances;
- The level of competition at which qualification scores were achieved (e.g., CDI 3\*, CDI 4\*, or CDI 5\*);
- The international rankings of other athlete/horse combinations competing in the same qualifying classes (i.e. international depth of field).

3.3.8 **Extraordinary Unforeseen Circumstances**  
The HPAG may consider athlete/horse combinations that did not achieve the *Appendix 1, Section 2.2.3*, Stage Three Qualification Score Requirements for selection, 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.

In the event of such unforeseen circumstances the HPA will determine if the circumstances justify competition or selection should take place in an alternative manner. In such circumstances, the HPA shall communicate the alternative selection process to all impacted individuals as soon as possible.

- 3.3.9 Athlete/horse combinations will be formally selected on or before July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.
- 3.3.10 Following selection, selected athlete/horse combinations plus named alternates, will be required to attend the 2026 WC quarantine staging camp. Confirmed details for the 2026 WC quarantine staging camp will be communicated to all declared athletes directly. The expected timelines for the quarantine staging camp will be between **August 1 – August 10, 2026**.

#### 4 SUBSTITUTIONS

4.1 Should the need arise prior to the start of the 2026 WC, substitutions shall be made as per FEI requirements for substitution and in accordance with this document. In the event of a conflict between these Selection Criteria and the FEI and or OC rules, the latter two shall prevail.

##### 4.1.1 **Substitutions After Selection but Before the 2026 WC Quarantine / Staging Camp**

Should the need for a substitution arise prior to the 2026 WC quarantine / staging camp the following provisions shall apply: (i) if a selected horse becomes unfit, ill or unsound such that it is, in the reasonable opinion of the Team Veterinarian, not possible or desirable to have that horse compete at the 2026 WC; or (ii) if a selected athlete is ill, injured, incapacitated or engages in misconduct, including violation of the EC Athlete Agreement, EC Code of Conduct and/or EC Policies, FEI Policies, Anti-Doping Policies or OC Policies, so that it is not possible or desirable for the athlete to represent Canada at 2026 WC, then the HPA shall have the authority to make all such substitution decisions after reviewing all relevant evidence in connection with any illness, injury, misconduct or unsoundness issues.

##### 4.1.2 **Substitutions During the 2026 WC Quarantine / Staging Camp**

Should the need for a substitution arise during the 2026 WC quarantine / staging camp the following provisions shall apply: (i) if a selected horse becomes unfit, ill or unsound such that it is, in the reasonable opinion of the Team Veterinarian, not possible or desirable to have that horse compete at 2026 WC; or (ii) should a situation arise where an athlete/horse combination is underperforming during the 2026 WC quarantine / staging camp to the extent that, in the reasonable opinion of the HPA, it is reasonably likely to have a negative impact on the team's performance during the 2026 WC; or (iii) if a selected athlete is ill, injured, incapacitated or engages in misconduct, including violation of the EC Athlete Agreement, EC Code of Conduct and/or EC Policies, FEI Policies, Anti-Doping Policies or OC Policies, so that it is not possible or desirable for the athlete to represent Canada at 2026 WC, then the HPA shall have the authority and absolute discretion to make all such substitution decisions after reviewing all relevant evidence.

##### 4.1.3 **Substitutions After Departure for the 2026 WC but Prior to the Horse Inspection**

Should the need for a substitution arise after departure for the 2026 WC, but prior to the horse inspection the following provisions shall apply: (i) if a selected horse becomes unfit, ill or unsound such that it is, in the reasonable opinion of the Team Veterinarian, not possible or desirable to have that horse compete at the 2026 WC; or (ii) if a selected athlete is ill, injured, incapacitated or engages in misconduct, including violation of the EC Athlete Agreement, EC Code of Conduct and/or EC Policies, FEI Policies, Anti-Doping Policies or OC Policies, so that it is not possible or desirable for the athlete to represent Canada at 2026 WC, then the DHP, DM and Chef d'Equipe shall have the



authority and absolute discretion to make a substitution decision as per the FEI rules and the OC rules. The DHP, DM and Chef d'Equipe must all be in agreement and in support of the substitution in order for a substitution to be made.

## 5 Official Announcement

5.1 The HPAG will privately inform the 2026 WC athlete/horse combinations including alternates of their selection on or before **July 3, 2026**.

### *Non-Disclosure Policy Regarding Team Announcement*

*It is important that ALL athletes selected for the 2026 WC (as well as ALL owners, grooms, athlete companions, 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, athlete companions, 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 should not make any references that confirms team selections on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat etc.).*

*The purpose of this non-disclosure policy is to ensure maximum impact and exposure for the announcement of the athletes who will represent Canada at the 2026 WC.*

*Violation of this non-disclosure policy may impact your selection.*

5.2 EC will officially announce the selected athlete/horse combinations. The date of the official announcement will be provided to the athletes when they are notified in writing of their selection. There will be no mention of the selections to the media or public until the official announcement has been made by EC.

## 6. CONTACT

For clarification or questions on the contents of the Internal Selection Policy (ISP) please contact Christine Peters at [cpeters@equestrian.ca](mailto:cpeters@equestrian.ca)



## Appendix 2

# ATHLETE RELEASE OF LIABILITY & WAIVER

### EQUESTRIAN CANADA – 2026 FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (WC): ATHLETE'S RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

To: EQUESTRIAN CANADA

Definition: In this agreement, the term "Equine Activities" shall include all activities, actions or conduct in any way directly or indirectly related to my travel to and my participation at the 2026 WC, which event I am attending as a member of the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET), including without limitation my participation in qualification events for the 2026 WC.

#### ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I am aware that the Equine Activities involve many risks, dangers and hazards to me and to my horse including, but not limited to: contracting human or equine diseases or illnesses in Canada, Asia, South America, Europe, the United States or in transit; accidents in or near the show ring or competition grounds; accidents at the stables; accidents during transportation to and from the 2026 WC, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2026 WC; negligence on the part of Equestrian Canada, including the failure by Equestrian Canada to safeguard and protect me from the risks, dangers and hazards of Equine Activities. I freely accept and fully assume all risks, dangers and hazards associated with the Equine Activities (for both myself and for my horse) and the possibility of personal injury, injury to the horse, my death or the death of my horse, property damage or any loss resulting therefrom.

#### RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of Equestrian Canada agreeing to provide me with accreditation at the 2026 WC so as to allow me to fully participate in the Equine Activities, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, I hereby agree as follows:

IF I KNOW OR SUSPECT that my physical condition may be incompatible with the Equine Activities, I will promptly seek medical advice before undertaking the Equine Activities.

TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS that I have or may have in the future against Equestrian Canada, its Directors, officers, employees, agents, coaches, independent contractors, subcontractors and representatives (all of whom are hereinafter referred to as the "Releasees") and to RELEASE THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I may suffer, my horse may suffer or that my next of kin may suffer as a result of my participation in the Equine Activities, due to any cause whatsoever, including NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT, BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE UNDER THE OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES AND FURTHER, INCLUDING FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF THE EQUINE ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE.

I agree to hold harmless and to indemnify the Releasees from any and all liability for any property damage of any description or personal injury to me or to any third party or injury to my horse resulting from my participation in the Equine Activities. I agree that this agreement shall be binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns in the event of my death. I agree that this agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario, and laws of Canada applicable therein, and any litigation involving the parties to this agreement shall be brought exclusively in Ontario. In entering into this Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by the Releasees with respect to the safety of the Equine Activities other than as set forth in this agreement.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

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Signature of Athlete

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Print Name (Athlete)

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Signature of Parent or Guardian

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Signature of Witness

*if Athlete is under 18 years old*

This form must be completed and returned by **July 10, 2026** to your Discipline Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail [cpeters@equestrian.ca](mailto:cpeters@equestrian.ca).

Late submissions will not be accepted. *Illegible forms will be returned for re-submission. Please type or print clearly on all attachments. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the athlete/horse combination from being considered.*



## Appendix 3

# GROOM/ ATHLETE COMPANION/CARER/TEAM PERSONNEL RELEASE OF LIABILITY & WAIVER

### EQUESTRIAN CANADA – 2026 FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (WC): GROOM/ ATHLETE COMPANION / CARER/TEAM PERSONNEL RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

To: EQUESTRIAN CANADA

Definition: In this agreement, the term “Equine Activities” shall include all activities, actions or conduct in any way directly or indirectly related to my travel to and my participation at the 2026 WC, which event I am attending as a member of the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET).

#### ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I am aware that the Equine Activities involve many risks, dangers and hazards to me including, but not limited to: contracting human or equine diseases or illnesses in Canada, Asia, South America, Europe, the United States or in transit; accidents in or near the show ring or competition grounds; accidents at the stables; accidents during transportation to and from the 2026 WC, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2026 WC; negligence on the part of Equestrian Canada, including the failure by Equestrian Canada to safeguard and protect me from the risks, dangers and hazards of Equine Activities. I freely accept and fully assume all risks, dangers and hazards associated with the Equine Activities and the possibility of personal injury, injury to the horse, my death, property damage or any loss resulting therefrom.

#### RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of Equestrian Canada agreeing to provide me with accreditation at the 2026 WC so as to allow me to fully participate in the Equine Activities, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, I hereby agree as follows:

IF I KNOW OR SUSPECT that my physical condition may be incompatible with the Equine Activities, I will promptly seek medical advice before undertaking the Equine Activities.

TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS that I have or may have in the future against Equestrian Canada, its Directors, officers, employees, agents, coaches, independent contractors, subcontractors and representatives (all of whom are hereinafter referred to as the “Releasees”) and to RELEASE THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I may suffer, my horse may suffer or that my next of kin may suffer as a result of my participation in the Equine Activities, due to any cause whatsoever, including NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT, BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE UNDER THE OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES AND FURTHER, INCLUDING FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF THE EQUINE ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE.

I agree to hold harmless and to indemnify the Releasees from any and all liability for any property damage of any description or personal injury to me or to any third party or injury to the horse under my care resulting from my participation in the Equine Activities. I agree that this agreement shall be binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns in the event of my death. I agree that this agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario, and laws of Canada applicable therein, and any litigation involving the parties to this agreement shall be brought exclusively in Ontario. In entering into this Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by the Releasees with respect to the safety of the Equine Activities other than as set forth in this agreement.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

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Signature

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Print Name

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Role

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Signature of Witness

This form must be completed and returned by **July 10, 2026** to your Discipline Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail [cpeters@equestrian.ca](mailto:cpeters@equestrian.ca).

Late submissions will not be accepted.

*Illegible forms will be returned for re-submission. Please type or print clearly on all attachments. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the groom from being considered.*



## Appendix 4

# OWNER RELEASE OF LIABILITY & WAIVER

### EQUESTRIAN CANADA – 2026 FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (WC): OWNER RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

To: EQUESTRIAN CANADA

Definition: In this agreement, the term "Equine Activities" shall include all activities, actions or conduct in any way directly or indirectly related to my horses' travel to, training for and participation at the 2026 WC, which event the horse \_\_\_\_\_ [insert name here] is attending as an equine member of the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET).

#### ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I am aware that the Equine Activities involve many risks, dangers and hazards to my horse including, but not limited to: contracting equine diseases or illnesses in Canada, Asia, South America, Europe, the United States or in transit; being delayed in quarantine or forced to remain indefinitely in quarantine; accidents in or near the show ring or competition grounds; accidents at the stables; accidents during transportation to and from the 2026 WC, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2026 WC; negligence on the part of Equestrian Canada, including the failure by Equestrian Canada to safeguard and protect my horse from the risks, dangers and hazards of Equine Activities. I freely accept and fully assume all risks, dangers and hazards associated with my horse participating in the Equine Activities (for my horse) and the possibility of injury to the horse, death of the horse and property damage or any loss resulting therefrom.

#### RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of Equestrian Canada agreeing to provide accreditation for up to two individuals and my horse for the 2026 WC so as to allow the horse to participate in the Equine Activities, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, I hereby agree as follows:

IF I KNOW OR SUSPECT that the physical condition or health of my horse may be incompatible with the Equine Activities. I will promptly advise the Team Veterinarian accordingly.

TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS that I have or may have in the future against Equestrian Canada, its Directors, officers, employees, agents, coaches, independent contractors, subcontractors and representatives (all of whom are hereinafter referred to as the "Releasees") and to RELEASE THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury that I, or any other person receiving accreditation on my behalf, may suffer, my horse may suffer (including death) or my next of kin may suffer as a result of my horses' participation in the Equine Activities, due to any cause whatsoever, including NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT, BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE UNDER THE OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES AND FURTHER, INCLUDING FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT MY HORSE FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF THE EQUINE ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE.

I agree to hold harmless and to indemnify the Releasees from any and all liability for any property damage of any description or personal injury to me or any person receiving accreditation on my behalf, or to any third party or injury to my horse resulting from my horses' participation in the Equine Activities. I agree that this agreement shall be binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns in the event of my death. I agree that this agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario, and laws of Canada applicable therein, and any litigation involving the parties to this agreement shall be brought exclusively in Ontario. In entering into this Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by the Releasees with respect to the safety of the Equine Activities other than as set forth in this agreement.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Horse / Passport No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (Owner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

This form must be completed and returned by July 10, 2026 to your Discipline Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail [cpeters@equestrian.ca](mailto:cpeters@equestrian.ca).

Late submissions will not be accepted. *Illegible forms will be returned for re-submission. Please type or print clearly on all attachments. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the athlete/horse combination from being considered.*



## Appendix 5

# RELEASE OF VETERINARY MEDICAL RECORDS

### Authorization for the Release of Veterinary Medical Records

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*Name of Rider/Owner/Person Authorized to Release Medical Records – please print*), authorize the full release of all medical records including, but not limited to, all diagnostic imaging including ultrasound and radiographs, for the horse \_\_\_\_\_ (*please print*), to Equestrian Canada (EC) for the official 2026 WC Team Veterinarian, Dr. Alan Manning, to enable him to support and assist with the presentation of my horse at the 2026 WC. The below contact information for my personal Equine Support Team members has been provided which will authorize Dr. Manning's access to these records.

#### Personal Equine Support Personnel:

##### Name of Primary Veterinarian:

Tel(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

##### Name(s) of Other Veterinarians who are, or have, treated the horse within the last 8 months:

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

##### Name of Equine Support Personnel:

Tel(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

##### Name of Equine Support Personnel:

Tel(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of Witness

This form must be completed and returned by **July 10, 2026** to your Discipline Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail [cpeters@equestrian.ca](mailto:cpeters@equestrian.ca). Late submissions will not be accepted. *Please type or print clearly on all attachments. Incomplete or illegible forms will be considered invalid. Equestrian Canada is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected or stolen correspondence; either submitted electronically, via postal service, commercially shipped or voice activated. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the applicant from being considered*



## Appendix 6

# FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION CRITERIA CHECK LIST

### **Key Criteria Dates:**

- Declaration (Section 3)**
  - Due January 7, 2026
  - Submit using EC Games Portal <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login>
  - Exception for late declarations see Section 3.8
- Late Declaration (Section 3.8)**
  - Due March 30, 2026
  - Submit using EC Games Portal <https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login>
- Release and Waiver Forms (Section 3.14)**
  - Appendix 2, 3, 4 & 5 Due July 10, 2026
- Qualification Period (Appendix 1 Section 2.1)**
  - Dressage - Qualification Period - January 1, 2026 – June 28, 2026
- FEI Certificate of Capability - Qualification Period (Appendix 1 Section 2.2.2)**
  - Qualification Period - 1 January 2025 until Nominated entries date
- Fitness Inspections (Appendix 1 Section 2.2.4)**
- Selection (Appendix 1 Section 3)**
- Pre-Games Quarantine / Staging Camp (Appendix 1, Section 3.3.10)**
- Substitutions (Appendix 1 Section 4)**
  - Review all details
- Official Announcement (Appendix 1 Section 5)**
  - Includes non-disclosure policy

### **Official EC Public Team Announcement**

- Those selected will be notified of the official date for the official EC public team announcement



## Appendix 7

# DEFINED TERMS

Where used in this document, unless otherwise defined, acronyms and capitalized words have the following meanings:

“**WC**” means the 2026 FEI World Championships in Aachen, Germany;

“**CADP**” means the Canadian Anti-Doping Program responsible for drug testing of athletes in Canada;

“**CDI**” means Concours de Dressage International (International Dressage Event) and has different levels, with the higher numbers meaning a higher level; the star ratings for events also relate to a number of other factors, such as the level of the judges present, the participation requirements and the prizemoney on offer;

“**CET**” means the Canadian Equestrian Team, as determined by Equestrian Canada;

“**Discipline Manager**” or “**DM**” means the EC Dressage Discipline Manager, Christine Peters;

“**EC**” means Equine Canada operating as Equestrian Canada;

“**EC Games Portal**” means the internet registration portal for EC used for Major Games;

“**FEI**” means the Fédération Equestre Internationale (International Equestrian Federation);

“**HPAG**” means the EC High Performance Advisory Group for the discipline;

“**DHP**” means the EC Director, High Performance, James Hood;

“**MER**” means the Minimum Eligibility Requirements established by FEI for qualification for the 2026 WC;

“**MER Period**” means the period determined by the FEI within which MER must be achieved as a combination;

“**OC**” means the Organizing Committee for the WC;

“**Qualification Period**” or “**QP**” - has the meaning set out in *Appendix 1, Section 2.1*;

“**SDRCC**” means the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada, an independent adjudicative body for sport in Canada.