2027 FEI PAEC CHAMPIONSHIPS OF THE AMERICAS (COTA)
EQUESTRIAN CANADA NOMINATIONS CRITERIA & PROCEDURES - EVENTING

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out the selection criteria and procedures ("**Selection Criteria**") that the Eventing High Performance Selection Committee will use to select athlete/horse combinations to compete at the 2027 FEI PEC Championships of the Americas ("**2027 COTA**") January 25-28, 2027.

1.2 Discipline-specific selection criteria are outlined in ***Appendix 1***. Questions specific to the Selection Criteria should be directed to the Chair of Eventing, High Performance, Dr. Emily Gilbert at: egilbert@equestrian.ca ("**Eventing High Performance Chair**").

1.3 Athlete/horse combinations must meet the expectations outlined in these Selection Criteria 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, 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 When there are issues of interpretation of the 2027 FEI PAEC Championships of the Americas Criteria, the English and French versions are equally authoritative and must be read together to determine the intended meaning

1.7 Any intentional misrepresentation of information submitted for selection consideration may, at the sole discretion of the EC Eventing High Performance Advisory Group ("**HPAG**"), eliminate the athlete/horse combination from both the qualifying process and consideration for selection.

1.8 Final Selection to the 2027 COTA will be done by Equestrian Canada based on the list submitted by the Eventing Nomination/Selection Panel. Team announcement will be controlled and managed by Equestrian Canada

2. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for nomination consideration for the 2027 COTA, the following minimum eligibility requirements listed in this section must be met:

2.1 Athlete

- Be a Canadian citizen at the time of declaration and until the conclusion of the 2027 COTA
- Have a Canadian passport that is valid until at least **February 3, 2028**
- 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 Equestrian Canada ("**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 current FEI Regulations and be 18 years of age in 2027, born on or before December 31st, 2009

2.2 Horse

- Meet minimum horse age requirements as per the 2025 FEI Regulations for Equestrian Eventing, as may be amended in https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/eventing/rules/changes-2026, and be 6 years of age in 2027, born on or before December 31st, 2021.
- Possess a valid FEI Horse Registration document (passport) and be in good standing

2.3 Groom

- Be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of the 2027 COTA
- Have a passport that is valid until at least **February 3, 2028**
- 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
- 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

2.4 Owner

- Have a valid passport until at least **February 3, 2028**
- 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

2.5 Support Team Members

- Have a passport that is valid until at least **February 3, 2028**
- 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

2.6 Athlete Companion (should accreditation be available)

- Have a passport that is valid until at least **February 3, 2028**
- 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 2027 COTA to EC through the EC Games Portal on or before **12 midnight ET, November 1, 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 deadline 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**: No declaration fees will be charged for declarations for the Eventing discipline.

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 2.2 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 2.3 for groom eligibility***), kept informed, and available for the time commitments. 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 Section 2.3 for groom information***.

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 IF horse passport. In the case of syndicate ownership groups, declared athlete/horse owners do not need to be individually listed in the FEI horse passport, but must be individually declared in priority for accreditation purposes. ***Please refer to Section 2.5 for owner eligibility.***

Failure to submit the required information and documents by this deadline will make the declaration incomplete and invalid.

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 Eventing High Performance Chair, (Dr. Emily Gilbert at: egilbert@equestrian.ca),

Accreditation

3.8 **Process**: The accreditation process for the 2027 COTA 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 and owners. Any subsequent changes to accreditation details i.e. new owners, grooms etc., must be reported promptly to the Eventing High Performance Chair in writing. **Athletes, grooms, owners, and team personnel are not permitted to apply directly to the Pan Am Sports OC for accreditation**.

3.9 **Allocation**: EC has the exclusive authority to, select, and allocate accreditations for the grooms, support team members, owners, and team personnel who comprise the Canadian Equestrian Team ("**CET**") to represent Canada at the 2027 COTA. Accreditations for the 2027 COTA 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 2027 COTA.

3.10 **Information Deadline**: Athletes, grooms, owners, 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.

3.11 **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 2027 COTA in an accredited role (Athlete, Owner, Groom, Team Personnel, etc.) prior to the declaration deadline referenced in ***Section 3.11***. Participation in this process does not guarantee accreditation nor nomination.

Release of Liability Waiver

3.12 All selected athletes and their applicable grooms, support team members, and owners, must complete, sign and return their applicable release of liability waivers to the Eventing High Performance Chair

within 7 days following notification of nomination decisions in December. 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/ 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

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 anti-doping or anti-doping-related offense.

4.2 **Testing**: Declared athletes may be subject to announced and unannounced anti-doping testing in accordance with the **CADP**. Testing includes both in-competition and out-of-competition testing. All athletes who declare for the nomination process must provide accurate and up-to-date contact information through the EC Sport Licence portal. Testing may be conducted by Sport Integrity Canada, the International Testing Agency (WADA and FEI) or other agencies acting on behalf of any of these entities.

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 HPAG and may result in the disqualification of the athlete from the nomination process.

Horse

4.4 **Testing**: All declared horses shall be subject to anti-doping 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, nomination and quarantine/training camp periods. Samples may be tested for the presence for any 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 Eventing High Performance Chair. 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 nomination 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 nomination process for the 2027 COTA have the right to appeal against a nomination decision but only on the grounds that Equestrian Canada has failed to comply with the correct procedures outlined in the Nomination Criteria or has made a patently unreasonable decision based on the Nomination 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 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 nomination decision process, any appeals to decisions or procedures made under the Nomination 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.

6 AMENDMENTS TO THE NOMINATION CRITERIA

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

6.2 Any changes in the Nomination 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 Nomination 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 Nomination Criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this Nomination Criteria, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) including but not limited to the EC Director of High Performance, Veterinary specialists, EC legal representative, the Eventing High Performance Advisory Group, the EC Secretary General or other experts deemed relevant to the determination of nominations, and will be made in accordance with the stated performance objectives and nomination 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

Discipline Specific Criteria: Eventing

1. INTRODUCTION

This Appendix sets out the discipline specific criteria and processes for selecting athletes and horses for the 2027 FEI PAEC Championships of the Americas to be held in Ocala, Florida from January 25-28, 2027, ("**2027 COTA**"). The discipline specific criteria form a part of the Nomination Criteria.

The discipline specific criteria have been compiled in consultation with Equestrian Canada ("**EC**") and the EC Eventing High Performance Advisory Group ("**HPAG**").

2. OVERALL CRITERIA OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the discipline-specific criteria are as follows:
Primary Objective: To provide team experience to developing athlete/horse combinations.
Secondary Objective: Achieve a top 2 team placing at the 2027 COTA and as many top individual placings as possible

NOTE: Preference will be given to athletes that have not previously represented Canada at the Pan American Games, FEI World Championships (previously World Equestrian Games) or the Olympics.

2.2 To achieve the primary and secondary objectives of the criteria, the Nomination Panel will nominate based on the criteria outlined in ***Section 9*** of ***Appendix 1***: SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA.

2.3 There is no obligation on EC or the Nomination Panel to nominate any athlete/horse combinations to compete at the 2027 COTA

3. NOMINATION PANEL

The selection panel shall be comprised of three members ("**Selectors**" or "**Selection Panel**").

The role, responsibilities and duties of the Selection Panel are described in ***Appendix 5*** of the Selection Criteria.

The **Eventing High Performance Chair** (Dr. Emily Gilbert) and **EC Director of High Performance** (James Hood), shall assist the Selection Panel in the execution of its duties, each in an *ex-officio* position.

The **Team Veterinarian** (Dr. Alan Manning/Dr. Emily Jantzi) will provide further assessment in the selection process as described in ***Appendix 1, Section 8*** of the Nomination Criteria.

In making their decisions, the Selection Panel will consult the EC Eventing **Chef D'Equipe** (Rebecca Howard), but the Chef D'Equipe will not have a vote in selection.

Should a Selector need to be replaced for any reason, e.g. conflict of interest, the HPAG will nominate a replacement to the EC CEO who meets the criteria of the job description laid out in ***Appendix 5*** of the Nomination Criteria.

In selecting the combinations for the 2027 COTA, it is understood that the individual selectors may be in a real or a perceived conflict of interest position. Selectors with a conflict of interest shall declare their conflict of interest (real or perceived) in advance. Any member of the Selection Panel who has declared a conflict of interest will remove themselves from all discussions and will abstain from voting in connection with such conflict, including consideration of any family member (direct relatives), business affiliates or any other real or perceived conflicted situation or conflicted relationship that may arise.

1. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE FEI PAEC CHAMPIONSHIPS OF THE AMERICAS COMPETITION

In accordance with the Overall Criteria Objectives outlined above (***Section 2)***, selectors acknowledge the technical specifications of the 2027 COTA Eventing Competition

FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the 2027 COTA

- **Dressage Test:** 2026 FEI Eventing CCI2* Dressage Test B
- **Cross Country Test:** FEI CCI2*-S
- **Jumping Test:** CCI2*-S

2. KEY TIMELINES:

November 1, 2026	Deadline for athletes to submit declaration in the EC Games Portal as per ***Section 3*** **of the Nomination Criteria:** Declaration and Accreditation Procedures. Deadline for **ALL** Accreditation.
January 1, 2026 – December 15, 2026 (Qualifying Period)	**FEI and EC MER:** Period for athlete and horse, as a combination, to achieve the minimum eligibility requirements for 2027 COTA.
December 1, 2026	As of this date, all Veterinary treatments / procedures conducted on **all horses declared for the 2027 COTA** must be reported to the Team Veterinarian.
December 2, 2026	**Definite Sport Entries**: On or before this date, the Selection Panel to determine the team of up to a maximum of four athletes plus four horses (as combinations) plus one athlete/horse combination (competing reserve) to compete in the 2027 COTA plus alternate athletes/reserve horses (as combinations). The HPAG will be informed of the decision and will communicate with athletes on this day at the latest.

One week following notification of definite and alternate sport entries	Deadline for athletes, grooms, owners & support personnel to sign and submit waivers and compliance with the COC Athlete Agreement or Support Team Agreement and any organizing committee conditions of participation for 2027 COTA.
January 15, 2027	Deadline for Equestrian Canada to nominate the definite sport entries to the FEI for the 2027 COTA.
January 25-28 2027	2027 COTA Eventing Competition.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION CONSIDERATION

6.1 **Priority:** Preference will be given to selection of an eventing team ("**Team**") for the 2027 COTA. A Team will consist of 4 members plus 1 competing reserve. If a Team does not qualify for the 2027 COTA, up to two individual athlete/horse combinations may be selected. Only those athlete/horse combinations achieving at least the minimum eligibility requirements in ***Section 6.2*** will be considered for nomination.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

6.2 **Minimum Eligibility Requirements** - All athletes/horses who take part in the 2027 COTA Eventing Competitions, must achieve the following minimum eligibility requirements (MERs) as a combination by obtaining "FEI qualifying results" as follows.

- One (1) CCI2*S

Please note that the achievement of the MER is a basic requirement and in no way confers an obligation to select an Athlete/Horse combination.

Meeting the MERs (outlined above) **within the qualifying period between January 1, 2026 and December 15, 2026 (Qualifying Period)**, moves an athlete/horse combination from ineligible to eligible for consideration for the 2027 COTA. Athlete/horse combinations that do not meet these MERs will **NOT** be eligible for nomination as members of the CET.

6.3 **Declaration:** In order to be considered for nomination, athletes must submit their declaration through the EC Games Portal on or before the declaration deadline of **November 1, 2026 ,** as outlined in ***Section 3***.

6.4 **Competition and Training Plan:** Athletes declaring for nomination consideration for the 2027 COTA are requested to submit their 2027 competition plan to the Chef D'Equipe by **December 15, 2026**

EMAIL TO: rebeccahowardequestrian@gmail.com

This competition plan should include the following:

- Eventing competitions to be attended in Fall 2026 and Winter 2027, including venue and level of competition
- Target scores at each international competition in the schedule
- Personal coach and veterinarian contact information

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 It is the sole responsibility of each athlete to ensure that they have achieved the required **FEI MER for eligibility for the 2027 COTA**. *Please note that the achievement of the minimum eligibility requirements in no way confers an obligation upon EC to select an athlete / horse combination.*

7.2 **Rule Responsibility:** It is each athlete's responsibility to be fully aware of the current EC Rules & Policies, FEI Rules for Eventing, and the FEI Clean Sport Policy.

7.3 **Compliance Responsibility:** Athletes must strictly abide by the following:

7.3.1 FEI General Regulations and FEI Discipline Sport Rules
7.3.2 FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse
7.3.3 FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules
7.3.4 Human Anti–Doping Rules as set out by the FEI and Equestrian Canada
7.3.5 Equestrian Canada Rules and Policies
7.3.6 Equestrian Canada Code of Conduct
7.3.7 Prompt communications with the High Performance Eventing Team personnel
7.3.8 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour
7.3.9 All athletes selected will be required to wear the official Team Canada clothing and are strongly encouraged to use all sponsored equine apparel on the field of play

8. VETERINARY

8.1 **Team Veterinarian Communications**: Throughout the selection process, observations and concerns identified by the Team Veterinarian will be communicated to the athlete of the horse, the owner of the horse, and the Nomination Panel. The goal of this communication is first to ensure the well-being of the horses and, secondly, to ensure the best possible performance result. The athlete will be responsible for ensuring recommendations of the Team Veterinarian are followed. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between the Team Veterinarian and their personal veterinarians.

8.2 **Evaluations of Horses**: To be considered for nomination as a definite sport entry or alternate, athletes must make their declared horses available for veterinary evaluations. Evaluations will be conducted by the Team Veterinarian and coordinated with individual athletes at 'to be determined' venues prior to and following the nomination decision. Prior to nomination, the Team Veterinarian will provide a report to the Nomination Panel. The Team Veterinarian's advice will be taken into consideration during nomination discussions.

8.3 **Veterinary Records:** Athletes and/or Owners (at their own expense) shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, the veterinary records of horse(s) being considered for nomination. In addition, athletes and or owners, (at their own expense), shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses being considered for nomination. Failure to comply with any request of the Team Veterinarian may adversely affect a combination in respect to nomination.

8.4 **Changes in Status:** Athletes must notify the Team Veterinarian of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when health changes first become apparent.

8.5 **Testing:** All declared Horses are subject to testing per ***Section 4*** of the Nomination Criteria and/or FEI Pre-Arrival-testing and/or as part of assessing the horse's well-being.

8.6 **Veterinary Treatment of Horses**

8.6.1 All Veterinary treatments / procedures conducted on **all horses declared for the 2027 COTA** must be reported to the Team Veterinarian as of **December 1, 2026**.

8.6.2 Observations of the Team Veterinarian relating to treatment of the horse, as well as any concerns regarding the horse will be communicated to the athlete and the owner of the horse.

8.7 **Feed and supplements - Definite Sport Entry Horses and Alternates for the 2027 COTA**
Athletes shall keep a record for each selected horse of all products, treatments, foodstuffs and all supplements used on or given to the horse commencing 30 days prior to the competition until the conclusion of the 2027 COTA.

8.8 **Removal from Selection**
EC reserves the right to remove an athlete/horse combination from selection, where the athlete does not comply with any of the above veterinary requests, or the horse is deemed unsound and/or unfit to travel and compete at the 2027 COTA. The decision of EC is final. Should this occur, the horse will be removed. See ***Appendix 1, Section 10.8***.

9 SPECIFIC NOMINATION CRITERIA

9.1 Nomination Factors

The Nomination Panel will use their discretion in the nomination process to attain the objectives outlined in ***Appendix 1, Section 2***.

9.1.1 **Performance Results**

(a) The Nomination Panel will consider the performance results of the combination in FEI CCI1*, CCI2*-S, CCI2*-L, CCI3*-S and CCI3*-L competitions from **January 1, 2026, to December 15, 2026**

(b) Competition results achieved at the CCI1*, CCI2*-S, CCI2*-L, CCI3*-S and CCI3*-L level, prior to 2026, may be considered by the Nomination Panel to demonstrate the experience of the combination.

In assessing ***Section 9.1.1 (a)*** and ***(b)*** performance results, the Nomination Panel will consider, but are not limited to, the following factors:

- The demonstrated competitiveness of a declared combination throughout the Qualifying Period at the CCI1*, CCI2*-S, CCI2*-L, CCI3*-S and CCI3*-L
- The trending performance history of the combination (i.e. is the performance improving, static or worsening)
- The potential of the combination to contribute to achieving the objectives in priority order (meaning the primary objective will be prioritized over the secondary objective), as described in ***Appendix 1, Section 2***

9.1.2 **Veterinary Evaluation Results**

The Nomination Panel will consider the results of any veterinary evaluations, tests or examinations, carried out with respect to the horse in considering fitness and soundness, that may affect their ability to achieve the performance objectives.

9.1.3 **Performance Metrics**

Performance result metrics and analysis provided by internal and external providers, including EquiRatings, may be used by the Nomination Panel in comparing results for athlete/horse combinations.

10. NOMINATION PROCESS/ TIMETABLE

10.1 **Timelines:** The timelines to be followed in the process are described in ***Appendix 1, Section 5***.

10.2 **Entry Maximums:** The maximum number of definite sport entries permitted is dependent on team vs individual eligibility.

10.3 **Definite Sport Entries - Team**: Canada may nominate up to 4 (four) athletes plus 4 (four) horse combinations as definite sport entries for a team plus one competing reserve combination. The nomination of definite sport entries will be the decision of the Selection Panel and approved by the HPAG in accordance with the Selection Criteria.

10.4 **Definite Sport Entries - Individual:** Should Canada not have enough eligible athlete/horse combinations to form a team for the 2027 COTA, then definite sport entries can be selected for the individual competition up to a maximum of two athletes. The nomination of definite sport entries will be the decision of the Nomination Panel and will be approved by the HPAG in accordance with the Nomination Criteria.

10.5 **Alternate Athletes /Reserve Horses**

The Nomination Panel may nominate alternate athlete/ horse combinations. Alternates/reserves must be able to travel to Ocala, Fl for the 2027 COTA.

10.6 **Continued Preparedness:** Definite sport entries and alternate, athlete/horse combinations are required to demonstrate their continued preparation, soundness and ability for the 2027 COTA. This is to include at least one three-phase competition following nomination at the preliminary level or above, as decided upon in collaboration with the Chef D'Equipe.

10.7 **Substitution of Definite Sport Entry**

10.7.1 **Substitution Prior to the 2027 CORA**

Substitution of an athlete/ horse combination nominated as definite sport entries to the FEI with a named alternate athlete/reserve horse combination shall be made as per the 2027 COTA Rules and Regulations.

A substitution may be required in the following circumstances:

- if a horse nominated as a definite sport entry becomes unfit, ill or unsound such that it is, in the opinion of the Team Veterinarian, not possible or desirable to have that horse compete at 2027 COTA;
- if an athlete nominated as a definite sport entry is ill, injured, incapacitated which or is in violation of EC Elite Athlete Agreement, EC Code of Conduct, EC Policies or FEI Policies.

Any substitution for medical reasons must be certified by a physician(s) who is approved by the HPAG

The Selection Panel shall then have the authority and absolute discretion to make all such substitution decisions after reviewing all relevant evidence. Decisions may include, without limitation, and may be in consultation with the athlete(s) where appropriate, whether to (i) substitute an athlete/horse combination, (ii) reduce the number of combinations or Team entered, or (iii) nominate individual competitors in place of the Team, as circumstances require.

The final decision for substitutions will be made by majority of the Nomination Panel in consultation with Team Veterinarian with respect to any horse fitness, soundness or welfare issues and the Chef d'Equipe with respect to any changes to the composition of the Team. Any deviations from the requirements caused by changes to the composition of the Team will be made by the Nomination Panel, provided that the Chef d'Equipe consents, which consent may not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. The Chef d'Equipe is charged with the responsibility of facilitating performance of the Team and shall have discretion to determine whether any change to the composition of the Team will interfere with the performance of the Team.

The last date for substitution is the last date at which an athlete or horse selected for the 2027 COTA can be subject to substitution with an alternate athlete or reserve horse not previously selected to travel.

10.8 **Substitution during Team Competition**
The Chef d'Equipe, along with the Director of High Performance and Team Manager will decide whether to substitute a combination at the 2027 COTA in the Team competition or whether to withdraw from such competition.

10.9 **Declaration of the order of starters at the 2027 COTA:** The date for the declaration of the order of starters will be announced by the OC in the competition schedule. The declaration of the order of starters will be made by the Chef d'Equipe.

11. **FORCE MAJEURE**

11.1 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with the Nomination Criteria, the Nomination Panel may, at their discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances.

11.2 **Definition of Extenuating Circumstances:** For the purposes of ***Section 11.1*** above, extenuating circumstances means an inability to compete, or perform or contribute at an optimum level arising from:

11.2.1 Injury or illness;
11.2.2 Bereavement or personal misfortune, and / or;
11.2.3 any other factors considered by the Nomination Panel to constitute extenuating circumstances, upon request of the declared athlete.

11.3 **Request for Extenuating Circumstances:** a request must be in submitted in writing to the Nomination Panel c/o Eventing High Performance Chair by a declared athlete, at least 10 days prior to the definite sport entry decision deadline.

11.4 **Failure to Attend:** Athletes unable to compete at events or other attendances required must advise the Nomination Panel c/o the Eventing High Performance Chair and provide the reasons thereof as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.

12 COMMUNICATION

12.1 **Publication of criteria**: The Nomination Criteria will be placed on the EC website. Inquiries about the Nomination Criteria or process can be made in writing or by telephone to the Eventing High Performance Chair.

12.2 **Notification to HPAG:** The Nomination Panel shall inform the HPAG of the nomination decision.

12.3 **Official Announcement**

The HPAG Chair will privately and officially inform the 2027 COTA athlete/horse combinations including alternates of their nomination on or before **December 2, 2026**

Non-Disclosure Policy Regarding Team Announcement

It is important that ALL athletes selected for the 2027 COTA (as well as ALL owners, grooms, 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.

Until the official team announcement, athletes and their affiliates (owners, grooms, companions, team personnel, and anyone else affiliated with a selected athlete, including friends, and family) are to refrain from confirming team selection of definite sport entries or alternative entries to any and all media, and must not make any references that confirms team nominations or selections on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, 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 2027 COTA.

Violation of this non-disclosure policy may result in sanctions, up to and including exclusion from nomination.

13. FUNDING DISCLAIMER: EC will cover the cost of entries for the 2027 COTA. All additional costs will be at the expense of the athlete and owners. All prize monies awarded to the athletes.

APPENDIX 2

Athlete Release of Liability & Waiver

EQUESTRIAN CANADA – 2027 FEI PAEC Championships of the Americas (2027 COTA). ATHLETE'S RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT ("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 2027 COTA, which event I am attending as a member of the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET), including without limitation my participation in qualification events for the 2027 COTA.
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 2027 COTA, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2027 COTA; 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 2027 COTA 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") relating to Equine Activities 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 me and my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns, in the event of my death. I agree that this Agreement shall be governed by 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 _____

_____	_____
Signature of Athlete	Print Name (Athlete)
_____	_____
Signature of Parent or Guardian *if Athlete is under 18 years old*	Signature of Witness

This form must be completed and returned no later than one week following the selection of definite and alternate sport entries to your Discipline Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail: egilbert@equestrian.ca. Late submissions will not be accepted. Exception; see Section 3.8 of the Nomination Criteria.

Illegible forms will be returned for resubmission. 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/Team Personnel
Release of Liability & Waiver

EQUESTRIAN CANADA –2027 FEI PAEC Championships of the Americas (2027 COTA). GROOM'S RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT ("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 2027 COTA, which event I am attending as a member of the Canadian Equestrian Team (CET), including without limitation my participation in qualification events for the 2027 COTA.
ASSUMPTION OF RISK
I am aware that the Equine Activities involve many risks, dangers and hazards to me including, but not limited to: contracting 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 2027 COTA, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2027 COTA; 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, 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 to the 2027 COTA 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") relating to Equine Activities and to RELEASE THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I 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 a horse under my care resulting from my participation in the Equine Activities. I agree that this Agreement shall be binding upon me and my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns, in the event of my death. I agree that this Agreement shall be governed by 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 _____

_____ _____
Signature of Groom/Athlete Companion/Team Personnel Print Name

_____ _____
Signature of Parent or Guardian Signature of Witness
if Groom/Athlete Companion/Team Personnel is under 18 years old

This form must be completed and returned no later than one week following the selection of definite and alternate sport entries to your Discipline Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail: egilbert@equestrian.ca. Late submissions will not be accepted. Exception; see Section 3.8.

Illegible forms will be returned for resubmission. Please type or print clearly on all attachments. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the athlete/horse combination from being considered.

APPENDIX 4

Owner Release of Liability & Waiver

EQUESTRIAN CANADA – 2027 FEI . (2027 COTA): OWNER'S RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT ("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 horse's travel to, training for and participation at the 2027 COTA, 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 2027 COTA, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2027 COTA; 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 my horse with accreditation to the 2027 COTA so as to allow the horse 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 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") relating to Equine Activities and to RELEASE THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury that I may suffer, my horse may suffer (including death) or my next of kin may suffer as a result of my horse's 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 to any third party or injury to my horse resulting from my horse's participation in the Equine Activities. I agree that this Agreement shall be binding upon me and my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns, in the event of my death. I agree that this Agreement shall be governed by 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 _____

_____	_____
Signature of Owner	Name of Horse and passport number
_____	_____
Print Name of Owner	Signature of Witness

This form must be completed and returned no later than one week following the selection of definite and alternate sport entries to your Discipline Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail: egilbert@equestrian.ca. Late submissions will not be accepted. Exception; see Section 3.8.

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

Eventing Selection (Nomination) Panel Member Job Description

COMPOSITION: The Eventing Nomination/Selection Panel (Nomination/Selection Panel) shall be comprised of three members (each a Nominator/Selector, one of which will also chair the Nomination/Selection Panel).

ACCOUNTABILITY: The Nomination/Selection Panel reports its decision to the Eventing High Performance Advisory Group.

TERM OF OFFICE: A term of office for a Nominator/Selector shall be an Olympic Cycle. (4 years, to be evaluated by the HPAG after the next Olympic Games).

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Nomination/Selection Panel is responsible for identifying and selecting the athlete/horse combinations deemed most capable of team completion-and an internationally competitive result, for senior major games and championships, including the Olympic Games, World Championships, Pan American Games and Nations Cups, through a fair, transparent and documented nomination/selection process.

The duties of the Nomination/Selection Panel will include, but are not limited to:

1. Establishing objectives of the Criteria.
2. Selecting the combinations (and alternate combinations) to be nominated to, or selected by, EC in accordance with the published Criteria.
3. Ruling on contentious issues in the nomination or selection process or in the application process.
4. Ensuring all performance results under review are accurate.
5. Observing at designated competitions.
6. Nominating/Selecting the alternates subject to the Nomination/Selection Criteria and the FEI regulations and policies where applicable.
7. Reviewing reports related to the horse evaluations/examinations.
8. Being available for meetings with the Selection Chair, HPAG Chair, HPAG, Manager, Technical Advisor, and/or Director of High Performance (1 week notice minimum will be provided)

QUALIFICATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Competed at the Advanced Level or have obtained Level 3 or above FEI Eventing Official status with a minimum of 3 years' experience involved at Eventing High Performance levels.
2. Nomination/Selection Panel members may not have been previously removed from an EC committee for violating EC Policies or Rules. In addition to following EC's rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
3. Nominators/Selectors must hold a current EC Sport license and complete, prior to the first committee meeting, a Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA).
4. Nominators/Selectors are NOT required to be members of the HPAG, but are required at minimum to sign an NDA and follow the code of conduct outlined below.

PREFERRED SKILLS:

1. Understanding of the particular competition being selected for (Olympics, World Championships, Pan American Games, Nations Cups) including the level of competition, terrain, competition site and other potential challenges.
2. Ability to understand results at various global events in relation to other events – e.g. appreciating that all CCI4* and CCI5*events are not the same.
3. Understanding of how the sport has evolved over the last decade.
4. Ability to communicate effectively with athletes **without bias**.
5. Ability to travel to targeted major competitions identified in the annual selection plan (within their respective global region).
6. Knowledge of the major (FEI) competition venues around the world.

7. Knowledge and awareness of other nation's team programs with a clear understanding of the current performance standard of the world's top nations.
8. Understanding of key performance evaluation metrics available and how to measure. (i.e. EquiRatings).
9. Horse capability knowledge/ understanding of horse/ athlete strengths relative to type of competition or track. i.e. horses for courses.

SELECTOR/NOMINATOR CODE OF CONDUCT:

- **Be visible and approachable:** Selectors are welcome to drop into the barns, say hello, and have friendly, informal conversations with athletes. This helps maintain positive relationships and allows selectors to be a supportive presence at competitions.
- **Keep conversations non-technical:** Selectors should avoid giving coaching, tactical, training, or technical advice to athletes. Any technical feedback should remain the responsibility of the athlete's coach and support team or EC Eventing Technical Advisor.
- **Stay within the selection criteria:** Conversations with athletes should not provide information, assurances, or commentary beyond the established selection criteria. Selectors should avoid discussing how an individual is performing against other athletes or speculating about selection outcomes.
- **Respect veterinary assessments and athlete preparation:** Selectors should not be present during veterinary evaluations, soundness assessments, or other formal horse health or fitness assessments. They should also avoid spending excessive or unnecessary time in the barns and be respectful of athletes' preparation routines and the role of their coaches, EC Eventing Technical Advisor and support teams.
- **Maintain consistency and professionalism:** All athletes should receive the same level of access and interaction from selectors. Selectors should remain friendly and encouraging while ensuring that their interactions cannot be perceived as influencing, coaching, or prejudging the selection process.
- **Abide by the guidelines set out in the Equestrian Canada,** Code of Conduct and Ethics

NOMINATION/SELECTION CHAIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Lead the Panel effectively**: Create a professional, respectful environment where all members can contribute and decisions are reached collectively.
- **Manage Panel administration**: Schedule meetings, set and circulate agendas, coordinate meeting materials, record and review minutes and action items, and ensure follow-up on decisions and outstanding matters.
- **Protect the integrity of the process**: Ensure all nominations are fair, transparent, consistent and properly documented.
- **Apply the Criteria consistently**: Keep the Panel focused on the published Nomination Criteria and the objectives established by the HPAG.
- **Make evidence-based decisions**: Ensure accurate performance results, horse evaluations, competition observations and relevant performance metrics are appropriately considered.
- **Remain impartial and independent**: Identify and manage conflicts of interest and ensure personal relationships, external pressure or preferences do not influence decisions.
- **Manage contentious issues**: Facilitate constructive discussion, consider differing perspectives and ensure difficult decisions are appropriately resolved and documented.
- **Communicate clearly with the HPAG**: Ensure decisions, rationales and significant issues are communicated appropriately and within required timelines.
- **Be accountable for the process**: Serve as the steward of the selection process, ensuring decisions are defensible, consistent with the Criteria and focused on identifying combinations capable of team completion and internationally competitive results.

INABILITY TO COMPLETE A TERM:

If a Nomination/Selection Panel member vacates their position during their term, the CEO of Equestrian Canada on the recommendation of the HPAG may appoint a qualified individual to complete such term.

The HPAG and/or the DHP of Equestrian Canada may remove a Nomination Panel member in the following circumstances:

1. A conflict of interest issue arises that cannot be resolved; and/or,
2. A member is unable to fulfill their responsibilities; and/or
3. A member has been found to be in violation of EC rules, regulations and/or policy; and/or
4. A member uses the information gained through their association with the Committee/HPAG to cause public harm, including without limitation, any defamation or other damage to reputation, to the Committee, HPAG, EC staff, participants or the organization.

FINAL DECISION MAKING:

- The Canadian Eventing Teams will be nominated/selected by the Eventing Nomination/Selection Committee
- All Equestrian Canada nominations are also subject to the approval of the COC.
- The High Performance Director has the final authority over the selection of the team. If unanticipated circumstances arise that are not covered in the selection criteria, a final and binding decision will be made by the High Performance Director.
- Although the High Performance Director has the authority to select team members pursuant to the selection criteria set out in this INP, the HPAG will ratify the final selection of the team to ensure that the selection criteria were adhered to and that the decisions were made in an objective and impartial manner.
- The Eventing Selection/Nomination Committee will confirm the final team composition for all major championships and Games using the criteria published.

No member of the HPAG – whether a voting or a non-voting member – shall participate in any discussions or decisions regarding the nomination 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 a 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 any meetings until the matter giving rise to the perceived or real conflict of interest has been resolved by the HPAG.

APPENDIX 6

Defined Terms

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

"**2027 COTA"** means the 2027 FEI PAEC Championships of the Americas in Ocala, FL

"**CADP**" means the Canadian Anti-Doping Program responsible for drug testing of athletes in Canada.

"Canadian Eventing Team" means the team of athlete /horse combinations nominated to the FEI to represent Canada at the 2027 COTA.

"**CCI**" means Concours Complet International (International Eventing Competition Event). The CCI has different competition formats and held different levels, with the higher numbers meaning a higher level; the star ratings for events:

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 CIC).

"**CEO**" means the EC Chief Executive Officer (Meg Krueger).

"**CET**" means the Canadian Equestrian Team, as determined by Equestrian Canada.

"Chef d'Equipe" means the EC Eventing Chef d'Equipe / Technical Adviser (Rebecca Howard).

"DHP" means the EC Director High Performance (James Hood).

"**Discipline Manager"** or **"DM"** means the EC Chair of Eventing, High Performance.

"**EC**" means Equine Canada operating as Equestrian Canada.

"**EC Games Portal**" means the internet registration portal for EC used for Major Games.

"Eventing High Performance Chair" means the Chair of Eventing, High Performance (Dr. Emily Gilbert).

"FEI" means the International Federation for Equestrian Sports - the Fédération Equestre Internationale.

"**HPAG**" means the EC High Performance Advisory Group for Eventing.

"High Performance Eventing Team Personnel" means the Director of High Performance (James Hood), Chair of High Performance (Dr. Emily Gilbert), Chef D'Equipe and Technical Advisor (Rebecca Howard) and Veterinarians (Dr. Alan Manning and Dr. Emily Jantzi).

"**MER**" means the Minimum Eligibility Requirement established by IF for qualification for the 2027 COTA.

"**MER Qualification Period**" means the period determined by FEI and EC -Eventing (1st January 2026 until June 22nd, 2027 inclusive) within which MER must be achieved as a combination.

"**OC**" means the organizing committee for the 2027 COTA.

"**Qualifying Period**" means January 1, 2026 to June 14, 2027.

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