2027 PAN AMERICAN GAMES
EQUESTRIAN CANADA NOMINATION CRITERIA & PROCEDURES - DRESSAGE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out the nomination criteria and procedures ("**Nomination Criteria**") that the Dressage High Performance Advisory Group (HPAG) will use to nominate athlete/horse combinations to compete at the 2027 Pan American Games ("**2027 PAG**") July 23rd – August 8th, 2027, with Dressage, scheduled for July 24th – 27th, 2027.

1.2 Discipline-specific nomination criteria are outlined in ***Appendix 1***. Questions specific to the Nomination Criteria should be directed to Christine Peters at: cpeters@equestrian.ca **("Dressage Senior Manager**").

1.3 Athlete/horse combinations must meet the expectations outlined in these Nomination Criteria to be considered for nomination.

1.4 Athletes and owners who choose to participate in the nomination process acknowledge by their participation and declaration that meeting the requirements outlined in these Nomination Criteria does not guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be selected.

1.5 It is important for the integrity of the nomination process that athletes, grooms, owners, team support personnel and associated parties involved in the nomination process practice at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on nomination, and/or any nomination decisions. All confidential information, conversations, and discussions will be identified as such. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the nomination process.

1.6 When there are issues of interpretation of the 2027 PAG Criteria, the English and French versions are equally authoritative and must be read together in order to determine the intended meaning

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

1.8 All declared team members will need to comply with the COC 2027 PAG Team requirements that are determined by the COC, including but not limited to identified acknowledgement of policies and required education and timelines, as determined by the COC. Failure to meet the requirements of the COC may result

in removal from the 2027 PAG Team or elimination from the nomination process. COC requirements will be conveyed by EC to all declared athletes, once provided by the COC.

1.9 Final Selection to the 2027 PAG will be done by the COC, based on the nominations list submitted by Equestrian Canada. Team announcement will be controlled and managed by the COC in consultation with EC.

2. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for nomination consideration for the 2027 PAG, 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 PAG
- Have a Canadian passport that is valid until at least **February 9, 2028**
- Be eligible to travel to any required quarantine/training camp and the 2027 PAG
- Be in compliance with all relevant International Federation ("**FEI**") and Pan Am Sports 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, submit, and comply with the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) Athlete Agreement and Organizing Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form (or Eligibility Conditions form for Pan Am Games) no later than the COC registration requirements deadline. Where the athlete is under the age of 19 years, the parent or guardian must also sign these agreements.
- Sign, submit and comply with 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**")
- Not be subject to a provisional suspension, other interim measure or period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation or any sanction imposed by EC, Sport Integrity Canada and SDRCC Safeguarding Tribunal or Appeal Tribunal, or any other relevant sport organization that would prevent or restrict the athlete's ability to participate in or adequately prepare for the Games.
- 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 FEI Regulations for Equestrian Dressage, as may be amended: 8 years of age in 2027, born on or before December 31st, 2019.
- 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 PAG
- Have a passport that is valid until at least **February 9, 2028**
- Be eligible to travel to any required quarantine/training camp and the 2027 PAG
- 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
- Sign, submit, and comply with the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) Support Staff Agreement and the Organizing Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form (or Eligibility Conditions form for Pan Am Games) no later than the COC registration requirements deadline. Where the groom is under the age of 19 years, the parent or guardian must also sign these agreements
- Must sign, submit and comply with 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
- Not be subject to a provisional suspension, other interim measure or period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation or any sanction imposed by EC, Sport Integrity Canada and SDRCC Safeguarding Tribunal or Appeal Tribunal, or any other relevant sport organization that would prevent or restrict the staff's ability to participate in or adequately prepare for the Games.

2.4 Owner

- Have a valid passport until at least **February 9, 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, submit and comply with 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 9, 2028**
- Be eligible to travel to any required quarantine/training camp and the 2027 PAG
- Provide all the information and documents necessary for the declaration, entry, and accreditation processes by the required deadlines
- Any support team member who is to be designated as a "coach" must meet the EC and COC coaching requirements, including being either a Registered or a Chartered Professional Coach with the Coaching Association of Canada by June 14, 2027.
- Sign, submit, and comply with the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) Support Staff Agreement and the Organizing Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form (or Eligibility Conditions form for Pan Am Games) no later than the COC registration requirements deadline. Where the staff member is under the age of 19 years, the parent or guardian must also sign these agreements

- Must sign, submit and comply with 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
- Not be subject to a provisional suspension, other interim measure or period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation or any sanction imposed by EC, Sport Integrity Canada and SDRCC Safeguarding Tribunal or Appeal Tribunal, or any other relevant sport organization that would prevent or restrict the staff's ability to participate in or adequately prepare for the Games.

3 DECLARATION AND ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES

Declaration

3.1 **Deadline Date:** Athletes must submit a declaration for the 2027 PAG to EC through the EC Games Portal on or before **12 midnight ET, January 15, 2027**. 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**: Discipline declaration fees are outlined in Appendix 1, Section 2.2.1

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 2.2 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 in the proposed schedule for 2027 PAG (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 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 2.4 for owner eligibility.***

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

3.8 **Declaration Date Exception:** Except as set out in Section ***3.8***, athletes may not submit a declaration after **12 midnight ET, January 15, 2027,** deadline.

3.8.1 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 2027 PAG.

3.8.2 Additional athlete/horse combinations must be submitted in writing to the Dressage Senior Manager at the earliest date possible, and no later than **March 30th, 2027**.

Note 1: Horse owner accreditation may not be possible for new horses declared after **12 midnight ET, January 15, 2027,** deadline**.**

Note 2: "New athlete/horse combination(s)" are defined as either a:
- new horse purchase, or
- horse transfer to an already declared athlete.

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 Dressage Senior Manager.

Accreditation

3.9 **Process**: The accreditation process for the 2027 PAG 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 Dressage Senior Manager in writing. **Athletes, grooms, owners, and team personnel are not permitted to apply directly to the Pan Am Sports OC for accreditation**.

3.10 **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 PAG. Accreditations for the 2027 PAG are limited and are allocated based on the needs of the entire team and on what the HPAG decides will lead to the best team performance at the 2027 PAG.

3.11 **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.

3.12 **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 PAG in an accredited role (Athlete, Owner, Groom, Support 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

3.13 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 Dressage Senior Manager within 7 days following notification of nomination decisions in June. 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/ Support 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 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 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 Dressage HPAG. 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 PAG have the right to appeal against a nomination decision but only on the grounds that EC 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 May 26, 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, COC and OCOG 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 Nomination Criteria necessitated by a change in FEI, COC or OCOG regulations will be distributed via email to the declared athletes as soon as reasonably possible. Should such circumstances 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 Dressage HPAG, 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 NOMINATION CRITERIA

1. TEAM COMPOSITION

1.1. **Team Nomination:** EC plans to nominate a team (of three or four athlete/horse combinations) to compete in the dressage competition at the 2027 PAG.

In announcing the final nomination for the 2027 PAG, where appropriate and indicated in the nomination criteria, EC will also announce alternate athletes who may be called to replace an athlete who is unable to compete at the 2027 PAG for any reason.

1.2. **Individual Nomination:** Should Canada not obtain a team qualification slot for the 2027 PAG or should Canada not have enough eligible athlete/horse combinations to form a team for the 2027 PAG, then entry in the individual event would only occur in exceptional circumstances. This decision would be subject to the approval of the Technical Advisor (TA) in consultation with the High Performance Advisory Group (HPAG), EC Director High Performance (DHP) and the Dressage Senior Manager (DSM), and in accordance with these qualification and nomination procedures and the regulations for the 2027 PAG.

1.3. **Performance Objective:** The performance objective for the Canadian Dressage Team at the 2027 PAG is to achieve team qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. ***Note**: In Dressage, the top two (2) teams, who have not yet qualified for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, will obtain direct qualification at the 2027 PAG.*

2. QUALIFICATION

2.1 **Qualification Period:** The Qualification Period (QP) for the 2027 PAG shall run from **February 1st, 2027 to June 6, 2027,** inclusive.

2.2 **Qualification Process:** Qualification of athlete/horse combinations for the 2027 PAG will consist of a four-stage process:

2.2.1 Stage One – EC Declaration
2.2.2 Stage Two – International Federation (IF) Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER)
2.2.3 Stage Three – EC Internal Qualification Requirements
2.2.4 Stage Four – EC Fitness Inspections

2.2.1 Stage One – EC Declaration
As a condition of declaration for the 2027 PAG, 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 (GP) 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 2027 PAG Declaration and a non-refundable declaration fee of $500.00 CAD through the EC Games Portal on or before the declaration deadline **January 15, 2027.** Exception see Section 3.8 of the Nomination Criteria.

2.2.1.2 An athlete who has NOT achieved a minimum threshold score of 66% in the Grand Prix (GP) 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 2027 PAG Declaration and a non-refundable declaration fee of $1,500.00 CAD through the EC Games Portal on or before the declaration deadline **January 15, 2027.** Exception see Section 3.8 of the Nomination Criteria.

2.2.2 Stage Two – FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) found here

58% panel score from January 1st, 2026, in a CDI 2* or higher in a Grand Prix (GP). The relevant CDI must have at least 2 FEI Judges of a nationality other than the Athlete and must have been approved by the FEI before the start of the event.

The deadline to achieve the MER is **June 16th, 2027.** This deadline has been shortened because of the need to meet the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) deadline for submission of nominations.

2.2.3 Stage Three – EC Internal Qualification Requirements

The objective of the nomination process is to identify the athlete/horse combinations most capable of contributing to Canada's success at the 2027 PAG through a combination of demonstrated performance consistency during a pre-qualification phase and a final observation competition.

Nomination will be conducted through a two-phase process consisting of:
1. Pre-Qualification Phase
2. Final Observation Phase

2.2.3.1 Phase 1 – Pre-Qualification Phase

Pre-Qualification Period

The Pre-Qualification Period (PQP) shall run from **February 1, 2027, through May 23, 2027**.

To be eligible for consideration, athlete/horse combinations must achieve qualifying scores at **CDI3*** or higher competitions during the PQP.

During the PQP, athlete/horse combinations must compete in and complete a minimum of:
- Two (2) Grand Prix (GP) tests; and
- Two (2) Grand Prix Special (GPS) tests.

For the purposes of calculating the Pre-Qualification Ranking Average, athlete/horse combinations may discard one (1) GP or GPS score, provided that a minimum of two (2) GP scores and two (2) GPS scores achieved during the PQP remain and are included in the final ranking average.

Note: An athlete/horse combination that retires or is eliminated after entering the competition arena at an event will receive a score of zero (0) for that test. A withdrawal made prior to entering the competition arena at an event will not be considered a qualifying attempt and will not affect the athlete/horse combination's qualification scores.

Only scores earned from competitions judged by a full FEI Ground Jury at CDI3* or higher competitions during the PQP will be considered eligible qualifying scores.

All qualifying scores must be achieved while competing in a double bridle. Athletes must submit a declaration confirming that all qualifying scores achieved during the PQP were earned in a double bridle no later than **May 24, 2027** (see Appendix 6).

Pre-Qualification Ranking Average
Athlete/horse combinations that satisfy the minimum Pre-Qualification Requirements will have a Pre-Qualification Ranking Average calculated for ranking purposes.

The Pre-Qualification Ranking Average will be determined by averaging all eligible Grand Prix (GP) and Grand Prix Special (GPS) scores achieved by the athlete/horse combination at CDI3* or higher competitions during the PQP. While a minimum of two (2) GP scores and two (2) GPS scores are required to be eligible, any additional eligible GP and GPS scores earned during the PQP will also be included in the Pre-Qualification Ranking Average calculation.

Calculation:
The Pre-Qualification Ranking Average shall be calculated by averaging all eligible Grand Prix (GP) and Grand Prix Special (GPS) scores achieved during the PQP, after the exclusion of up to one (1) GP or GPS score, where applicable.

Pre-Qualification Ranking Average =
(Sum of all eligible GP and GPS scores remaining after the exclusion of up to one (1) GP or GPS score) ÷ (Total number of GP and GPS scores included in the calculation)

A minimum of two (2) GP scores and two (2) GPS scores must remain and be included in the calculation of the Pre-Qualification Ranking Average.

The resulting Pre-Qualification Ranking Average will be used to rank eligible athlete/horse combinations for the purpose of determining advancement through the nomination process.

Minimum Pre-Qualification Performance Standard
To advance to the Final Observation Phase, athlete/horse combinations must achieve a minimum Pre-Qualification Ranking Average of 66% or higher. Athlete/horse combinations failing to achieve the minimum performance standard shall not be eligible to advance to the Final Observation Phase regardless of ranking position.

2.2.3.2 Advancement to Final Observation Phase
At the conclusion of the Pre-Qualification Phase, all eligible athlete/horse combinations shall be ranked according to their Pre-Qualification Ranking Average.

The top ten (10) ranked athlete/horse combinations that have achieved the minimum Pre-Qualification Performance Standard shall be invited to advance to the Final Observation Phase.

Should fewer than ten (10) combinations achieve the minimum Pre-Qualification Performance Standard, only those combinations meeting the standard shall advance to the Final Observation Phase.

2.2.3.3 Phase 2 – Final Observation Phase

The Final Observation will be conducted at the Ottawa Dressage Festival CDI, scheduled for **June 3 - 6th, 2027.**

The Final Observation is intended to provide a direct comparison of the nation's leading athlete/horse combinations under identical competition conditions.

Final Observation Competition Requirements

At the Ottawa Dressage Festival final observation qualified athlete/horse combinations must compete in:

- Grand Prix (GP) – will count for 60% of a combination's final observation result
- Grand Prix Special (GPS) – will count for 40% of a combination's final observation result

Final Observation Result

The calculated scores earned in the GP (60%) and GPS (40%) at the Final Observation will be added together to produce the Final Observation Result (Formula: Final Observation Result = (60% of GP Score + 40% of GPS Score))

Final Ranking Average Calculation

The Final Ranking Average used for team nomination will be calculated using the following weighting:

- Pre-Qualification Ranking Average 60%
- Final Observation Result 40%

Final Ranking Average = (Pre-Qualification Ranking Average × 60%) + (Final Observation Result × 40%)

Athlete/horse combinations will be ranked in descending order based on their Final Ranking Average.

2.2.3.4 Exceptional Circumstances Provision

Attendance at the Ottawa Dressage Festival Final Observation is mandatory for all qualified athlete/horse combinations.

An athlete/horse combination may only be excused from participation in the Final Observation under exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Receiving an invitation to represent Canada at a European-based CDI5* competition that conflicts with, or is scheduled within one (1) month prior to the Final Observation Event at the Ottawa Dressage Festival, where the Technical Advisor in his absolute discretion determines that it is the best interest of the athlete/horse combination and the Team for the athlete/horse combination to attend such competition. The scores achieved at the European-based CDI5* competition will then become the scores used for the athlete/horse combinations final observation result and will be calculated into the final ranking average calculation in substitution for the final observation result. In this scenario the combination must compete in the Grand Prix (GP) and Grand Prix Special (GPS) at the European-based CDI5* competition. The GP will count as 60% of their final result and the GPS will count as 40% of their final result from the European CDI5* event.
- Temporary Illness or injury to athlete
- Temporary Illness or Injury to horse
- Force majeure events; or

- Other circumstances determined by the TA and HPAG to be beyond the reasonable control of the athlete.

Athletes seeking consideration under this provision must submit a written request and detailed supporting documentation to the TA and the HPAG as soon as reasonably possible.

The TA and the HPAG shall have discretion to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist. In the event the TA and the HPAG cannot agree on the exceptional circumstances, it shall be deemed that no exceptional circumstances exist.

Failure to attend the Final Observation without prior approval will result in the athlete/horse combination being deemed ineligible for 2027 PAG nomination consideration.

2.2.4 Stage Four – EC Fitness Inspections

2.2.4.1 Physician Assessment

i. As part of the nomination process the Team Physician shall provide advice, upon the request of the HPAG, to be taken into consideration to ensure athletes considered for nomination are healthy and fit-to-compete.

2.2.4.2 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, the TA and the HPAG wish to ensure that no unfit or unsound horse travels to or competes at the 2027 PAG Please refer to Section 4 Substitutions. Athletes and owners are responsible and accountable for all positive testing results.

ii. **Initial Assessment:** As part of the nomination process an assessment for soundness and serviceability for competition will be conducted, on the top 6 horses, by either the team veterinarian or by an IF certified veterinarian acceptable to the TA and the HPAG, prior to nomination decisions being made. Assessments will be done to evaluate the overall soundness and serviceability of the horse for competition with special emphasis on the cause and prognosis of any recognized unsoundness. Following this assessment, the assessing veterinarian will provide a report to the TA and the HPAG either in person or via conference call. The advice of the assessing veterinarian will be taken into consideration during nomination discussions.

iii. **Final Assessment:** A final assessment for soundness and serviceability for competition will be conducted on all nominated horses including alternates, by the Team Veterinarian prior to the departure of the horses for the 2027 PAG. Assessments will examine the overall soundness and serviceability for competition with consideration of the cause and prognosis of any recognized unsoundness. Following the final assessments, the Team Veterinarian shall provide a report to the TA and the HPAG either in person or via conference call. In the event a nominated horse is found to be unfit or unsound during assessment, they may be re-presented within a 24-hr period for re-assessment. Should the horse be unable to proceed to the 2027 PAG, the TA and the HPAG will remove the horse based on *Appendix* 1, Section 4 Substitutions below.

iv. **Communication:** Throughout the nomination process, observations and concerns identified by the Team Veterinarian will be communicated orally or in writing to the athlete of the horse in question, and to the TA and the HPAG. 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 communication between the regular veterinarian, all treating veterinarians and the team veterinarian is encouraged, and in order to best help support and prepare horses for the 2027 PAG, athletes may be required to provide up to six (6) months of full medical history including all treatments, medications and supplements which have been given to declared horses. This history must be provided by the regular and treating veterinarian(s).

3. NOMINATION PROCESS

3.1 Nomination Panel

The HPAG is the nomination panel for the 2027 PAG. A list of HPAG members can be found on the EC website at https://www.equestrian.ca/sport/dressage

No, voting or non-voting, member of the HPAG 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 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.

3.2 Specific Responsibilities

- The general purpose of the HPAG is to provide input and feedback into the development of the high performance strategy, policies (including criteria) and programming
- Oversee the nomination of Canadian athlete/horse combinations to represent Canada internationally
- Develop a national ranking system for elite riders
- Develop a mechanism for ensuring that the feedback and opinions of targeted athletes are represented in the key high performance policy and program decision making processes
- Collectively act as a resource to the TA, DSM and the DHP on other high performance program areas, as requested
- Support management in dealing with appeals and disciplinary actions related to dressage programs and nomination
- Provide strategic counsel to the TA, DSM and the DHP on matters concerning high performance programs and services
- Review athlete development through objective assessment tools in collaboration with the Performance Analyst

3.3 Nomination Procedures

3.3.1 Following the end of the Stage Three – EC Internal Qualification Requirements (see **Appendix 1**, **Section 2.2.3** above) the TA and the HPAG will review the Final Ranking Average for all athlete/horse combinations.

3.3.2 Provided ***Appendix 1***, ***Section 2.2.3*** above is achieved, then nomination to the team will be determined as outlined below:

a) Automatic Nomination
The two athlete/horse combinations with the highest Final Ranking Averages, as specified in ***Appendix 1, Sections 2.2.3***, will be automatically nominated to the 2027 PAG team.

b) Final Team and Reserve Nomination
The remaining two athlete/horse combinations, along with up to two designated reserve combinations, will be nominated to form the strongest possible team to represent Canada at the 2027 PAG. The TA and 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 see ***Appendix 1, Sections 2.1,*** 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 two 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-3 team performance at the 2027 PAG.

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 Concours de Dressage International Officiel (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).

3.3.3 **Extraordinary Unforeseen Circumstances**
This provision is intended to be applied only in exceptional circumstances.

The purpose of this provision is to ensure that an athlete/horse combination that is demonstrably among Canada's strongest combinations is not excluded from nomination solely due to extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances, beyond the reasonable control of the athlete, which prevented the combination from satisfying the qualification requirements set out in ***Appendix 1, Section 2.2.3***.

Extraordinary, unforeseen circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- a temporary injury or illness affecting the athlete or horse that is outside the reasonable control of the athlete and from which the combination has demonstrably recovered sufficiently to compete at the 2027 PAG;
- the cancellation or significant disruption of qualification competitions due to extreme weather, disease outbreak, venue closure, or other force majeure events;
- exceptional circumstances that prevented access to qualification competitions despite the athlete having made all reasonable efforts to compete; or
- other unforeseen events of comparable significance that materially prevented the athlete/horse combination from meeting the qualification requirements.

This provision may only be considered where the TA and the HPAG determine, based on clear, objective, and compelling performance evidence, that the athlete/horse combination has already demonstrated a performance level that places it among the strongest combinations available for nomination and that its inclusion is necessary to maximize Canada's competitive performance at the 2027 PAG.

This provision shall not be applied:

- to compensate for inconsistent performances, inadequate competition planning, or failure to achieve the required qualification scores where reasonable opportunities existed to do so;
- where the athlete/horse combination has not otherwise demonstrated a sustained performance level consistent with 2027 PAG nomination; or
- where there is insufficient objective evidence to conclude that the athlete/horse combination is capable of outperforming qualified athlete/horse combinations.

The burden rests entirely with the athlete to provide objective evidence supporting both the existence of the extraordinary, unforeseen circumstances and the athlete/horse combination's demonstrated 2027 PAG-level performance capability.

Where the TA and the HPAG determine that this provision applies, they may establish an alternative method of assessment that is limited to verifying the athlete/horse combination's readiness and demonstrated ability to contribute to Canada's strongest possible 2027 PAG team. Any alternative assessment shall not reduce the performance standard required for nomination.

3.3.4 The final athlete/horse combinations nominated to the 2027 PAG team, and up to two athlete/horse combinations named as reserves, will be nominated to identify the best possible team to represent Canada at 2027 PAG.

3.3.5 Following nomination, athlete/horse combinations plus named reserves, will be required to attend the pre-Games Staging Camp. Confirmed details for the pre-Games staging camp will be communicated to all nominated athletes directly. The expected timelines for the training camp will fall within the period **July 10 - 22nd, 2027**.

4 SUBSTITUTIONS

4.1 Should the need arise prior to the start of the 2027 PAG, substitutions shall be made as per IF, COC and Organizing Committee (OC) requirements for substitution and in accordance with this document. In the event of a conflict between these Nomination Criteria and the IF, COC or OC rules, the latter shall prevail. All substitution decisions will be communicated via email.

4.1.1 Substitutions After Nomination but Before the 2027 PAG Staging Camp
Should the need for a substitution arise prior to the 2027 PAG staging camp, the following provisions shall apply: if a nominated 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 2027 PAG, or if a nominated athlete is ill, injured, incapacitated or engages in misconduct, including violation of the EC Elite Athlete Agreement, EC Code of Conduct and/or EC Policies, IF Policies, COC Policies or PASO /OC Policies, so that it is not possible or desirable for the athlete to represent Canada at 2027 PAG, the TA and the HPAG 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 2027 PAG Staging Camp**
Should the need for a substitution arise during the 2027 PAG staging camp, the following provisions shall apply: if a nominated 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 2027 PAG, or should a situation arise where an athlete/horse combination is underperforming during the 2027 PAG staging camp to the extent that, in the reasonable opinion of the TA and the HPAG, it is reasonably likely to have a negative impact on the team's performance during the 2027 PAG, or if a nominated athlete is ill, injured, incapacitated or engages in misconduct, including violation EC Elite Athlete Agreement, EC Code of Conduct and/or EC Policies, IF Policies, COC Policies or PASO /OC Policies, so that it is not possible or desirable for the athlete to represent Canada at 2027 PAG, the TA and the HPAG 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 2027 PAG but Prior to the Horse Inspection
Should the need for a substitution arise after departure for the 2027 PAG but prior to the horse inspection, the following provisions shall apply: if a nominated 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 2027 PAG, or if a nominated athlete is ill, injured, incapacitated or engages in misconduct, including violation EC Elite Athlete Agreement, EC Code of Conduct and/or EC Policies, IF Policies, COC Policies or PASO /OC Policies so that it is not possible or desirable for the athlete to represent Canada at 2027 PAG, the Team Veterinarian, TA and the Chef d'Equipe shall have the authority and absolute discretion to make a substitution decision as per the IF, COC and OC rules. During the actual competition period onsite at the 2027 PAG, all final decision making authority will reside with the Chef d'Equipe. In the case of an athlete substitution at the same, note that the Canadian Pan Am Team privileges will be transferred to the incoming athlete while the privileges of the athlete who is being replaced will be re-evaluated.

5 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

5.1 The TA and the HPAG will privately inform the 2027 PAG athlete/horse combinations including alternates of their intended nomination on or before **June 9th 2027,** All EC nominated athletes meeting the nomination criteria will be informed of their intended nomination to COC on or before **June 9th, 2027**. Final nominations must be submitted to COC on or before **June 17, 2027**.

Non-Disclosure Policy Regarding Team Announcement
It is important that ALL athletes nominated for the 2027 PAG (as well as ALL owners, grooms, , support team personnel, and anyone else affiliated with a nominated athlete, including friends, and family) respect this Non-Disclosure Policy Regarding Team Announcement until after the official announcement of the team by the COC.

Until the official COC team announcement, athletes and their affiliates (owners, grooms, companions, team personnel, and anyone else affiliated with a nominated athlete, including friends, and family) are to refrain from confirming team nomination to any and all media, and must not make any references that confirms team nominations 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 PAG.

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

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

6 CONTACT

For clarification or questions on the contents of the Internal Nomination Policy (INP) please contact Christine Peters at cpeters@equestrian.ca

APPENDIX 2 – ATHLETE RELEASE OF LIABILITY & WAIVER

EQUESTRIAN CANADA – 2027 PAN AMERICAN GAMES (2027 PAG): 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 2027 PAG, 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 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 PAG, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2027 PAG; 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 my 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 PAG so as to allow me 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 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 _____ , 2027

_____	_____
Signature of Athlete	Print Name (Athlete)
_____	_____
Signature of Parent or Guardian	Signature of Witness

if Athlete is under 18 years old

This form must be completed and returned by **June 16, 2027** to the Dressage Senior Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail cpeters@equestrian.ca.

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/ TEAM PERSONNEL
RELEASE OF LIABILITY & WAIVER

EQUESTRIAN CANADA – 2027 PAN AMERICAN GAMES (2027 PAG): GROOM/ ATHLETE COMPANION/ TEAM PERONNEL 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 2027 PAG, 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 2027 PAG, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2027 PAG; 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 at the 2027 PAG so as to allow me 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 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 _____ , 2027

_____	_____	_____
Signature	Print Name	Role

_____
Signature of Witness

This form must be completed and returned by **June 16, 2027** to the Dressage Senior Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail cpeters@equestrian.ca.
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 – 2027 PAN AMERICAN GAMES (2027 PAG): 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 2027 PAG, 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 PAG, the show ring, the competition grounds and stables; the negligence of other parties participating at the 2027 PAG; 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 2027 PAG 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 _____ , 2027

_____ _____

Signature of Owner Name of Horse / Passport No

_____ _____

Print Name (Owner) Signature of Witness

This form must be completed and returned by **June 16, 2027** to the Dressage Senior Manager at Equestrian Canada, E-mail cpeters@equestrian.ca.

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 2027 PAG Team Veterinarian, Dr. Alan Manning, to enable him to support and assist with the presentation of my horse at the 2027 PAG. 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 **June 16, 2027** to the Dressage Senior Manager at Equestrian Canada,

E-mail cpeters@equestrian.ca..

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 – DOUBLE BRIDLE DECLARATION

I, _____ , declare that I obtained all my technical scores using a double bridle.

(Rider's Name – Please Print)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____

(Please print name)

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return to:

Equestrian Canada, Dressage

E-mail: cpeters@equestrian.ca

submit no later than **Monday, May 24, 2027**

APPENDIX 7 –
PAN AMERICAN GAMES NOMINATION CRITERIA CHECK LIST

Key Criteria Dates:

- □ **Declaration (Section 3)**
  - Due Monday, January 15th, 2027
  - Submit using EC Games Portal https://licence.equestrian.ca/gamesdb/login
  - Exception for late declarations see Section 3.8

- □ **Release and Waiver Forms (Section 3.13)**
  - ***Appendix*** 2, 3, 4, 5 Due June 16th, 2027

- □ **Qualification Period (Appendix 1, Section 2.1)**
  - Qualification Period – February 1st, 2027 – June 6th, 2027

- □ **FEI Certificate of Capability – MER Period (Appendix 1, Section 2.2.2)**
  - MER Period - 1st January 2026 until June 16th, 2027.

- □ **Fitness Inspections (Appendix 1, Section 2.2.4)**
  - Review all details

- □ **Double Bridle Affidavit (Appendix 1, Section 2.2.3)**
  - ***Appendix*** 6 - Due Monday, May 24th, 2027

- □ **Nomination (Appendix 1, Section 3)**

- □ **Team Announcement (Appendix 1, Section 5)**

- □ **Pre-Games Staging Camp (Appendix 1, Section 3.4.4)**
  - Dates to be confirmed

- □ **Substitutions (Appendix 1, Section 4)**
  - Review all details

APPENDIX 8 – DEFINED TERMS

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

"**PAG"** means the 2027 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru;

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

"Canadian Dressage team" means the team of rider/horse combinations nominated to represent Canada at the 2027 PAG.

"**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;

"**DSM"** means the EC Dressage Senior Manager

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

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

"IF" means the International Federation in the case of equestrian this is the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI);

"GP" means a Grand Prix Test

"GPS" means a Grand Prix Special Test

"GPF" means a Grand Prix Freestyle Test

"**HPAG**" means the EC High Performance Advisory Group for Dressage

"DHP" means the EC Director High Performance

"**MER**" means the Minimum Eligibility Requirements established by IF for qualification for the 2027 PAG;

"**MER Period**" means the period determined by the IF (1st January 2026 until 16 June, 2027) within which MER must be achieved as a combination

"OCOG" means the Organizing Committee for the 2027 PAG

"Pre-**Qualification Period**" means January 1, 2027 to May 15th, 2027

"SIC" means the Sport Integrity Canada, an independent adjudicative body for sport in Canada;