



EC NATIONAL AWARDS CRITERIA

The impressive achievements of individuals, equines and organizations who have contributed to the growth and success of the equestrian community over the past competition year will be recognized in the following categories:

- Gold Medal Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Equestrian of the Year – The Dr. George Jacobsen Trophy
- Junior Equestrian of the Year – The Gillian Wilson Trophy
- Horse of a Lifetime – The Hickstead Trophy
- Volunteer of the Year
- Owner of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Horse of the Year
- Canadian Breeder of the Year
- Canadian Bred Horse of the Year
- Media Award – The Susan Jane Anstey Trophy
- Health & Welfare Award

Gold Medal Award

The Gold Medal Award is the highest and most prestigious of the EC National Awards, and is only awarded when the EC President and executive deem a recipient to have met one more of the following criteria:

- Long and outstanding service as a builder of EC.
- Long and outstanding service as a builder of the sport, nationally or internationally, to the benefit of EC.
- Outstanding accomplishment as a competitor. Must include a minimum of five (5) years competing internationally for Canada, as an official team member, and achievement of an Olympic or World Championship Gold Medal.
- Any other achievement deemed by the EC President and executive to be equal or superior to these criteria.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual whose contributions to the Canadian equestrian community are considered exceptional by their peers, and whose long-term service and dedication have contributed directly to the ongoing growth and development of Canadian equestrian sport and industry. This award may be granted posthumously.



Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Be a past or current EC Sport Licence Holder in good standing.

Equestrian of the Year – The Dr. George Jacobsen Trophy

Created in 1995, this award honours Dr. George Jacobsen D., Sc, O.C., F.I.A.N.A, P.ENG who founded EC (formerly the Canadian Equestrian Federation) in 1976. It is given to an equestrian athlete who has excelled in equestrian competition in the current award year while demonstrating exceptional talent, horsemanship, sportsmanship and dedication to equestrian sport, as well as the vision and mission of EC.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Hold a valid EC Sport Licence.
- Be a Canadian citizen or have Landed Immigrant Status.

Junior Equestrian of the Year – The Gillian Wilson Trophy

Founded in 1993, the Junior Equestrian of the Year Award honours Gillian Wilson who served as Technical Director of EC (formerly the Canadian Equestrian Federation) for more than 15 years. The award is given to a junior equestrian athlete who has excelled in equestrian competition in the current award year while demonstrating exceptional talent, horsemanship, sportsmanship, and dedication to equestrian sport, as well as the vision and mission of EC. The recipient will receive \$1,000 to assist in furthering training and education.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Hold a valid EC Sport Licence.
- Be considered a junior according to EC General Regulations.
 - (Individuals are considered a junior until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18 years of age)
- Be a Canadian citizen or have Landed Immigrant status.

Horse of a Lifetime – The Hickstead Trophy

The Horse of a Lifetime Award – The Hickstead Trophy was created in 2011 to honour the life and memory of Canadian show jumping great, Hickstead. Recipients of this prestigious award will be high performance horses of the highest exception, an “iconic horse”, and therefore will be awarded only when warranted and not necessarily on an annual basis. The award can be given posthumously.



Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Be a horse owned*, in whole or in part, by a Canadian citizen, and/or have represented Canada at the highest level of sport domestically or internationally.

**Owners of nominated horses are not required to hold an EC Sport Licence.*

Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year Award was created in 1998 to recognize the tireless volunteers who have selflessly contributed to the advancement of equine and equestrian interests in Canada. This award is an acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of individuals who so generously give their time in order to support the goals and vision of EC.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Have been active as an EC volunteer within the current year.
- Have made a special and significant contribution to the equestrian community through their volunteer activities with EC.

**Nominees are not required to hold an EC Sport Licence.*

Owner of the Year

The Owner of the Year Award was created to recognize the dedication, commitment and support owners provide in order to ensure Canadian athletes have access to world-class horses.

This award is presented to an owner, individual or group who has progressed equestrian sport by investing toward, breeding or supporting a horse in competition at the national or international level.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Own FEI horse(s) ridden in competition by a Canadian athlete.

**Nominees are not required to hold an EC Sport Licence.*

Coach of the Year

EC presents the Coach of the Year Award in recognition of the outstanding achievements of a coach in Canada, both for the performances of their athlete(s) in the previous competitive season and for exhibiting excellence in sport values.



The recipient of this award guides their athletes to success in sport and in life by instilling in them the values of honesty, integrity, a positive attitude, competitiveness, and a love of sport. This coach leads by example and consistently demonstrates a dedication to lifelong learning and continuous improvement.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Hold a current coach status.
- Been an active coach with athletes competing in the most recent competition season.
- Be a Canadian citizen or have Landed Immigrant Status.

Official of the Year

The Official of the Year award is given to a judge, course designer or steward who has been active in the competitive year and is a representative of the principles of athlete development and fair play. They have demonstrated their commitment to the role of officiating in competition by offering equestrian athletes a safe, fair and enjoyable environment.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Be a current Official in any discipline
- Have officiated at competition in the most recent competition season.
- Be a Canadian citizen or have Landed Immigrant Status.

Horse of the Year

The Horse of the Year Award was created in 2019 to recognize a horse that has had an exceptional performance year. This meaningful award focuses specifically on the performances within a one-year timeframe rather than the long-established celebrity or iconic performance status recognized by the Horse of a Lifetime Award. The award may be given posthumously.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Be a horse owned, in whole or in part, by a Canadian citizen, and/or have represented Canada domestically or internationally.

Canadian Breeder of the Year

The Canadian Breeder of the Year Award was created to recognize Canadian breeders who have displayed incredible dedication to the Canadian equestrian industry through efforts to improve the quality and/or enhance the reputation of Canadian bred horses.



Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Be a current EC Sport Licence Holder, Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization member, or Canadian breed association member in good standing.
- Be a Canadian citizen or have Landed Immigrant status.

Canadian Bred Horse of the Year

The Canadian Bred Horse of the Year Award is given to a horse bred within Canada who holds an outstanding national or international performance record that has helped to enhance the reputation and visibility of Canadian bred horses. The horse may be currently competing, retired, or awarded posthumously. Outstanding sires with offspring that hold a successful record in national and international competitions are also eligible.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Be a horse foaled in Canada.
- Be registered with a breed association in good standing with EC (includes those with a registry maintained outside of Canada).

Media Award – The Susan Jane Anstey Trophy

In memory of Susan Jane Anstey, and in recognition of her invaluable contributions to Canadian equine interests, EC presents the Susan Jane Anstey Trophy to an exceptional individual or corporate entity who has delivered outstanding media coverage that served to enhance the image of Canadian equine interests to the Canadian public.

Criteria

Nominees will be considered under the following criteria:

Entries are open to works in all areas of equestrian interests. Types of media can include work or contributions to:

- Print media publications
- Online publications
- Television broadcasts
- Photography

Recognized submissions can be:

- One specific story or event
- An ongoing story or event
- An overall outstanding effort for the year



Additional factors:

- Submissions must clearly demonstrate a clear focus of enhancing the image of equestrian interests to the Canadian public.
- All submissions must have been published or aired for the first time between December 1 of the previous year and November 30 of the nomination year.
- Print and photography submissions must have been published in a viable publication, paid-circulation, member-based, non-profit, or similar, or online on a website that is a same-name affiliate of a print or broadcast news organization.
- Television submissions must have aired in at least one broadcast in Canada, or otherwise have been made available to Canadian households through public television, satellite or cable.

** Nominees are not required to hold an EC Sport Licence.*

Health & Welfare Award

The Health & Welfare Award recognizes an individual or organization that:

- Has contributed directly to the improvement of horse health and welfare in Canada through years of hard work and dedication; or
- Has demonstrated exceptional compassion and/or foresight for horses at the grassroots level.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Be a Canadian organization or a Canadian citizen (or have Landed Immigrant status).

** Nominees are not required to hold an EC Sport Licence.*