



**EQUESTRIAN  
CANADA  
ÉQUESTRE**

**NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM**

*Dressage*

2024-10-10



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Philosophy.....	3
1.2 Purpose of National Team Program .....	3
2. Program Requirements and Support .....	3
2.1 National Team Program Requirements .....	4
2.2 National Team Program Support.....	5
3. National Team Program Performance Criteria .....	6
3.1 National Squad .....	6
3.2 Development Squad.....	6
3.3 Talent ID Squad .....	6
4. National Team Program Ranking .....	7
4.1 National Team Program Ranking .....	7
5. Championships and Major Games Selections.....	7
6. Confidentiality .....	7
7. Appeals .....	7
8. Removal from Program.....	7



## 1. Philosophy

Equestrian Canada's (EC) National Team Program (NTP) identifies athlete/horse combinations in the Train to Win, Learn to Win, Training to Compete stages of development and supports their progression to podium success.

The NTP is categorized into three levels: National Squad, Development Squad, and Talent ID Squad. The NTP is aligned with EC's high performance strategies and funding partners, such as Sport Canada and the Athlete Assistance Program.

### 1.2 Purpose of National Team Program

The purpose of the NTP is to increase the competitive athlete pool and the number of Canadian athlete/horse combinations achieving international podium performances and to give athletes and stakeholders a clear and consistent understanding of what is expected of them in a fair and transparent process.

## 2. Program Requirements and Support

The NTP supports athlete/horse combinations to improve their performance through increasing attention from EC's Integrated Support Team (IST) Personnel and high performance resources. The program is also used to assist in allocating high performance services and target athlete resources based on the ranking process with a greater allocation of focus based on the following:

Level 1:	Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Squad
Level 2:	National Squad
Level 3:	Development Squad
Level 4:	Talent ID Squad

Eligibility for the NTP is based on athlete/horse combinations meeting the performance requirements outlined in Section 3, which will be reviewed and published every six months (June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>).



## 2.1 National Team Program Requirements

Athletes must meet and maintain all NTP requirements outlined in the following chart:

	National Squad	Development Squad	Talent ID Squad
Abide by EC's Rules, Code of Conduct and Ethics, Safe Sport and Social Media Policy, and act in accordance with other national and international policies (FEI, CCES, WADA etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Sign and adhere to the EC Athlete Agreement	✓	✓	✓
Be eligible to compete for Canada (hold a current Canadian passport or hold Canadian Citizenship)	✓	✓	✓
Be a current EC Sport Licence Holder in good standing	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum
Athlete and horse are registered with the FEI	✓	✓	✓
Horse is fit-to-compete. If there are concerns of fitness the horse will be assessed by the Team Veterinarian	International-level Horse	International-level Horse	
Personal Coach certification or demonstration of actively working towards certification	HP1 Certified	HP1 Certified	
Follow training and competition plans, agreed upon with the HPAG in collaboration with the athlete's personal coach	✓	✓	
Participate in quarterly meetings (in-person or remote) with the Discipline Manager	✓		
Participate in annual fitness and IST assessments	✓		
Support the aims of the program including facilitating effective communication between the athlete's personal coach and IST (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and EC's high performance staff and IST Personnel	✓	✓	
Submit judge score sheets to EC within two (2) weeks of competition	✓		
Athlete takes all reasonable steps to avoid living in an environment not conducive to high performance achievement (i.e. no access, or limited, access to quality coaching, sport medicine/science, recovery, equipment, facilities, family and peer support etc.) and avoid taking any deliberate action that puts his or her ability to perform at risk or limits performance	✓	✓	✓



## 2.2 National Team Program Support

Athlete/horse combinations who meet and maintain NTP requirements will benefit from the high performance resources and support as outlined in the following chart:

	National Squad	Development Squad	Talent ID Squad
Observation sessions with EC IST personnel at athlete's Daily Training Environment (DTE), as budget permits. The athlete's personal coach and IST personnel may be present	✓		
Support from EC's high performance staff at targeted competitions, as budget permits	✓	✓	
Quarterly meetings with Discipline Manager to discuss and support Yearly Training and Competition Plans	✓		
Benchmarking and goal-setting support through Edge 10	✓		
Support from Team Veterinarian and IST Personnel at targeted competitions and individual access to Team Veterinarian and IST Personnel remotely and in-person, as budget permits	✓	✓	
EC led sourcing of strategic local IST practitioners	✓	✓	✓
Annual fitness and IST testing	✓		
Athlete tracking/monitoring and score by score analysis reports through Edge 10	✓		
Education on HP athlete concepts, such as fitness, training plans, nutrition, sponsorships/marketing etc.	✓		
Mentoring opportunities with National Squad athletes		✓	✓
Eligibility to be nominated for Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Carding	C1/SR/SR1/ SR2 Level Cards	D Level Cards	
Eligibility for Horse Maintenance Program	✓	✓	
Priority access to educational opportunities	✓	✓	✓
Exemptions to CDI Threshold score requirements for authorizations.	✓	✓	✓
Consideration based on ranking for annual international awards, bursary support and funding applications	✓	✓	



## 3. National Team Program Performance Criteria

### 3.1 National Squad

#### **Performance Objective**

National Squad athlete/horse combinations have a team top 8 objective at the World Championships and Olympic Games.

#### **Performance Criteria**

##### **Minimum eligibility requirements for athlete/horse combinations:**

- Three (3) panel scores of 68%, or better, from CDI3\*, or higher, competitions in the Big Tour Technical tests (Grand Prix/Grand Prix Special)

### 3.2 Development Squad

#### **Performance Objective**

Development Squad athlete/horse combinations have an objective to progress to the National Squad.

#### **Performance Criteria**

##### **Minimum eligibility requirements for athlete/horse combinations:**

Two (2) panel scores of 67%, or better, from CDI1\*, or higher, competitions in the:

- Big Tour Technical Tests (Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special)
- Medium Tour Technical Tests (Intermediate A/B/II)
- U25 Tour Technical Tests (Intermediate II/Grand Prix (16-25))
- Small Tour Technical Tests (Prix St. Georges, Intermediate 1)

### 3.3 Talent ID Squad

#### **Performance Objective**

The Talent ID Squad athlete/horse combinations have an objective to progress to the Development Squad level.

#### **Performance Criteria**

##### **Minimum eligibility requirements for athlete/horse combinations:**

Two (2) panel scores of 65% or better, from CDIY competitions in the Young Rider Technical Tests (Young Rider Team or Young Rider Individual)



## 4. National Team Program Ranking

### 4.1 National Team Program Ranking

Ranking within the NTP is determined by the following process:

- Athlete/horse combinations will be ranked based on the annual average of their technical scores (note freestyle scores will not be used in average calculations) from FEI (CDI) competitions within the preceding 12 month period. Nomination for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program is based on the NTP - December 1<sup>st</sup> ranking list.

## 5. Championships and Major Games Selections

An athlete who is a part of the NTP is not automatically qualified for a Championships or a Major Games, or any other team or individual competition in which EC plans to send competitors, refer to specific criteria for selection details.

## 6. Confidentiality

It is vital for the integrity of the NTP that strict codes of confidentiality are followed by athletes, personal IST, team IST, and EC staff relating to information or discussions and which may have a bearing on high performance strategies. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the National Team Program. If in doubt of confidential information, please confirm with the Discipline Manager.

## 7. Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal the National Team Program criteria, but only on the grounds of incorrect implementation of the criteria and procedures outlined in this document. Athletes hereby adopt Equestrian Canada's Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Policy as the mechanism to resolve National Team Program related disputes.

## 8. Removal from Program

Athlete/horse combinations who do not maintain performance criteria outlined in Section 3; or who do not comply with NTP requirements outlined in Section 2.1; or whose horse becomes unsuitable for any reason (sale, loss of form, prolonged lameness or injury) and is still unsuitable three (3) months from the date that reason became apparent; or who do not, without good reason, compete in named target competitions; or who do not, without good reason, participate in formal training programmes; or who are in breach of EC, or other national / international policies and rules, or who bring the sport into disrepute; may be removed from the NTP after respectful consideration of the Discipline High Performance Advisory Group (HPAG) and Director, High Performance (DHP).

1. In the first instance the Discipline Manager (DM) and DHP will speak to the athlete, advise them of the concerns, and mutually agree on a sufficient period of time to allow the athlete to remedy the concerns.
2. If not achieved, the DM and DHP will consult with HPAG to reach a decision on the removal of the athlete from the NTP.

If any athlete/horse is found to have a positive finding (i.e. a medication not covered by a TUE/ETUE or a banned substance) the athlete will automatically be removed from the program pending review.



Canada 