

National High Performance Program

National Para-Equestrian Squad Selection Criteria



1. Preamble

National Squads within the Equestrian Australian High Performance Programme focus primarily on developing Australian combinations to compete at major International competitions such as the Paralympic and World Equestrian Games.

Selection in these squads is an indication that the Selectors have identified combinations as possible future Paralympic or World Games competitors and the HP Programme will provide some support for these combinations.

2. Definitions

In these Criteria, the following words have the following respective meanings:

"Combination" means a horse and rider combination currently competing

"Major Events" means events such as National Championships, CPEDI 3* and other Events designated by the PE HP Panel

All Squads will be based on the General and Performance Criteria as listed in this document. The selection will be generally based on performances in the preceding 6 - 12 months.

In selecting and assessing potential squad members, the National Selectors will source information from and consult with a range of suitable expert personnel.

3. National Squads

The appointed Selection panel will select 3 squads as follows:

National Elite Squad

- Members of this Squad are, in principle, combinations who are, in the opinion of the Selectors, in contention for the Australian Team for the next major championships (ie Paralympic or World Equestrian Games).

National A Squad

- Members of this squad are, in principle, combinations who may not be ready for an international team position at the next major championship, but should be ready for the following WEG and/or Paralympic Games.

National Futures Squad

- Members of this squad are considered upon receipt of an Expression of Interest available on the EA Website, or nomination by either Selectors or a PE Judge.
- The Futures Squad will be based on evidence of a rider exhibiting potential to develop into an international competitor but it is not necessarily combination based selection.
- The Futures Squad will be reviewed taking into consideration competition performances but also assessment at HP clinics throughout the year

Current Members of National Squads will be reviewed every six months, with new members being able to be added to squads at any time upon meeting the required performance criteria

4. General Criteria

The following criteria are required for inclusion on **all** National Squads.

- Riders must be members of Equestrian Australia and have a measurable physical or visual impairment that satisfies the minimum impairment criteria as detailed in the PE classification manual and have been assessed and graded by an accredited PE classifier
- The primary focus will be on combinations that have shown the ability or potential to represent Australia at International level to a high standard
- All riders must sign the Athletes Agreement before inclusion in any National Squad. Further to this, the owner of the horse named in the National Squad must sign the Owners Agreement. Both agreements must be signed and returned to EA National Office before any rider will be named on any National Squad.
- In all instances where competition results are used for assessment purposes, the standard of competition, number of competitors, the number and level/experience of the judges and the overall quality of the competition may be taken into consideration. Whilst performances at EA and some RDA events may be used as a guide, competitions at major events will be necessary to ensure consideration for Elite and A Squads. Riders are advised to compete at all designated events
- Any combinations on any National Squad who show they are unable to maintain the rigours of competition and training during a reasonable period (6 - 12 months) will lose their place on the squad.
- Horses must be sound and fit to compete to the satisfaction of the EA appointed vet. Riders and owners must be prepared to submit their horses for soundness and fitness assessments by an EA appointed vet as requested.

5. Para Equestrian National Elite Squad

The Squad shall be selected based on General Criteria, listed above, and Performance Criteria listed below.

In principle the Selectors will apply the following Performance Criteria when selecting combinations for the PE National Elite Squad:

- to be considered for selection on the Elite Squad, combinations should be consistently approaching the target scores (listed in Point 8 below) in their grade at designated EA PE HP events, National Championships or CPEDI3* events and showing an upward trend.
- Combinations should be showing a level of performance which would be indicative of success at International competition in their grade at the next major championship event.

- Combinations may be asked to attend assessment clinics as nominated by the Selectors.
- To retain their position on the squad, riders will have to demonstrate commitment to the programmes prescribed by the National HP Management team and a steadily improving performance record.
- The Holding List is part of the National Elite Squad. Combinations that have previously been on the National Elite Squad but are temporarily not competing due to a variety of reasons effecting either horse or rider may be placed on the Holding list for a period of up to 12 months. If they do not resume competition at a level deemed satisfactory by the National PE Selectors within 12 months of their placement on the Holding List they will be removed from the Elite Squad.

6. Para Equestrian National A Squad

The squad shall be selected based on General Criteria listed above and Performance Criteria listed below

In principle the selectors will apply the following criteria when selecting combinations for the PE National A Squad.

- to be considered for selection onto the A squad, combinations should be showing a clear and significant upward trend in performance results.
- Combinations may be asked to attend assessment clinics as nominated by the Selectors
- To retain their position on the squad, riders will have to demonstrate commitment to the programmes prescribed by the National HP Management team and a steadily improving performance record.

7. Para Equestrian National Futures Squad

The squad shall be selected based on General Criteria above and Performance Criteria below:

The National Futures Squad will ideally contain

- Promising new combinations that may have recently begun competing at PE, Para Dressage or EA Dressage events
- Combinations who are showing significant improvement and in the opinion of the National Selectors are moving towards achieving the target scores for their respective grade.
- Talented riders without a suitable mount who show the ability to produce work of an increasing trend on a variety of horses.

To retain their position on the squad, riders will have to demonstrate commitment to the programmes prescribed by the National HP Management team and a steadily improving performance record.

8. Target Scores

Ia	Ib	II	III	IV
77.22	74.42	74.94	72.92	72.76

These target scores have been calculated by averaging the gold, silver and bronze medal winning scores from the London Paralympic Games in the Team and Individual tests in each grade. These target scores will be used in Team Selection for WEG as per the "2014 World Equestrian Games Para Equestrian Selection Policy.