



FEI EVENTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP for U25 2026 – Millstreet (IRE)



***NATIONAL DISCIPLINE SELECTION POLICY
2026 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS***

U25 EVENTING

Version 02

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*Review and Approval: Reviewed and approved by
Equestrian Australia Board*

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1. PURPOSE

Equestrian Australia (EA) will select (6) eligible Under 25 year old (U25) Athletes as part of a Combination who in the opinion of EA operating through the National Eventing Selection Panel (NESP) in its absolute discretion will be most likely to achieve the highest competitive results at the 2026 FEI Eventing World Championships for U25; who are and will remain until the conclusion of the Championships positive ambassadors for the Sport, EA and the Championship; and who are able to contribute to the future development of the Australian Eventing Team.

2. PROCESS OF SELECTION

Subject to the eligibility requirements and any additional EA, Federation Equestre International (FEI) or Organising Committee (OC) qualification and entry requirements, selection will follow the steps outlined below.

Selection

- a) On or before 17th June 2026, the NESP will select up to six (6) combinations to be named as the **U25 Squad**. This Squad will potentially be comprised of:
 - i) Four (4) U25 combinations to compete at the 2026 U25 Eventing Championship to be held at Millstreet Ireland (the **U25 Team**);
 - ii) Two (2) U25 reserve combinations to compete as Individuals if not required for the U25 Team (the **U25 Individuals**).

The date for advising Team and Individual selection is to be advised based on the official schedule.

- b) Following the first horse inspection, or earlier as deemed appropriate by the Chef d'Equipe, the running order for each Athlete of the U25 Team will be announced.

Substitution

Following selection of the U25 Team, if:

- c) in the opinion of the NESP (in consultation with the High-Performance Director, High-Performance Eventing Technical Lead, Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the U25 Team that is likely to be sustained and affect performance at the 2026 U25 Eventing Championship; or
- d) a member of the U25 Team contravenes their Athlete Agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA rules and policies; or
- e) a member of the U25 Team does not meet the requirements outlined in the Athlete Agreement;



that member of the U25 Team may be replaced by an U25 Individual, or another suitable qualified and eligible combination as identified by the NESP.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Athletes

To be eligible for selection to the U25 Team, all Athletes must be selected as part of a Combination.

EA will not select an Athlete as part of a combination unless, as at the Nominated Entries (date EA nominates combinations to the FEI) EA is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the Athlete:

- a) meets the age criteria for the 2026 FEI Eventing World Championship for U25 (beginning of the calendar year in which the Athlete reaches the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which the Athlete reaches the age of 25);
- b) is a National of Australia and eligible to compete for Australia as determined by the FEI General Regulation **Article 119 – Sport Nationality Status of Athletes** which can be [accessed here](#);
- c) is a member in good standing with EA;
- d) satisfies the FEI qualification criteria;
- e) has not committed any offence under the anti-doping policies of Sport Integrity Australia, the World Anti-doping Agency or EA for which a sanction imposed has not been discharged;
- f) has not committed any offence under the other policies of Sport Integrity Australia, the World Anti-doping Agency or EA for which a sanction imposed has not been discharged;
- g) together with the horse to be selected as a Combination, has achieved any Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) as indicated in the FEI qualification system;
- h) is not suffering from any physical or mental impairment that would prevent the Athlete from competing at the 2026 FEI Eventing World Championship for U25 to the highest possible standard;
- i) agrees to complete any education models requested by the FEI or EA;
- j) agrees to participate in training clinics and camps as notified in writing, unless an exemption has been granted by the High-Performance Director in response to a timely request from the Athlete for an exemption;
- k) be able and willing to prepare an agreed training and competition program recommended by the High-Performance Director after consultation with the Athlete;
- l) is part of a Combination with a horse that is registered with the International Federation and eligible to compete for Australia under **FEI General Regulation**



Article 113 – Registration and Eligibility of Athletes and Horses. For more information, click [here](#):

- m) is willing to make their Horse(s) available for examinations at a time and location reasonably requested by the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian nominated by the Team Veterinarian, High-Performance Director or Chair of the NESP and accept and implement the reasonable recommendations of the Team Veterinarian;
- n) has notified the Team Veterinarian, the Chef d'Equipe and High-Performance Director of any change in their Horse(s) health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent;
- o) has not used or administered any substance to the horse that is in contravention of the EA Medication Control Policy and/or the FEI Anti-doping and Controlled Medication regulations unless they have been sanctioned for the breach and completed the sanction imposed;
- p) satisfies any reasonable additional precondition(s) prior to the nomination date that have been advised in writing the Athlete by EA;
- q) has not by their actions or omissions brought the Athlete, the discipline of Eventing or EA into public disrepute or censure unless such conduct is disclosed to EA in the EA Athlete Agreement and EA decides to confirm the Athletes eligibility notwithstanding such conduct;
- r) will sign a EA Athlete Agreement when required by EA;
- s) will consent to an EA Integrity Check (refer to Clause 7 Integrity);
- t) accepts that EA requires all those members involved in international equestrian competition sport to accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount. All Athletes must adhere at all times to the [FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse](#) ; and
- u) holds a current passport with an expiry date no less than six (6) months after the final date of the 2026 FEI Eventing World Championship for U25 competition.

3.2 Horses

EA will not select a Horse for the 2026 FEI Eventing World Championship for U25 unless EA is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the horse:

- a) together with the Athlete to be selected as part of the Combination has achieved the MER qualification requirements as set out by the FEI;
- b) is registered with EA or the corresponding Federation of the nation in which the horse is domiciled;
- c) holds a current FEI Passport or FEI Recognition card with an expiry date no less than six months after the final date of the 2026 FEI Eventing World Championship for U25;
- d) has been registered with the FEI as determined by FEI General Regulation **Article 113 – Registration and Eligibility of Athletes and Horses**;



- e) has been examined to the satisfaction of the Team Veterinarian (or Veterinarian nominated by the Team Veterinarian); and
- f) is not subject to a current sanction under the EA or FEI Equine Anti-doping and Controlled Medication regulations.

3.3 Horse Owner(s)

In order for a Combination to be selected to the U25 Squad, EA must receive from each owner of the selected horse a signed copy of the Equestrian Australia Horse Owner Agreement when requested by EA.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

The NESP will select up to six (6) eligible Athletes as part of a Combination who, in the opinion of the NESP, in its absolute discretion:

- a) will be most likely to achieve the highest competitive results at the 2026 FEI Eventing World Championships for U25; and
- b) are, and will remain until the conclusion of the Championships, positive ambassadors for sport and EA.

For the purpose of assessing Combinations against the above requirements, the NESP will consider the following competition, objective and discretionary factors in its sole and absolute discretion.

4.1 Minimum Entry Requirements (MER)

The qualification criteria requires that the Combination must have obtained one (1) x CCI4*-S MER as a Combination from 1 January 2025 until the closing date of the FEI nominated entries, 17 June 2026.

4.2 Competition Factors

Results achieved by the Combination at International Competition - CCI4*-L, CCI4*-S, CCI3*-S level and/or National Competition – CCN3*-S, CCN4*-S during 2024, 2025 and before 9th June 2026 will initially be considered by the NESP.

4.3 Objective Factors

- a) the final score (across all three phases of competition) of the Combination at the competitions set out at Clause 4.2;
- b) the scores achieved by the Combination at the events in each individual phase of the competitions set out at Clause 4.2;
- c) the final placing of the Combination at the competitions set out in Clause 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, the final placing of each Combination at such competitions will not be determinative for the purposes of nomination, and



d) data and analysis provided by external providers may be used.

4.4 Discretionary Factors

Specific:

- a) the performance of each Combination at the competitions set out in Clause 4.2 in relation to the quality and number of the competitors at each competition;
- b) the technical features of each competition set out in Clause 4.2 including but not limited to:
 - i) Dressage Judging (including the breakdown of scores across multiple judges);
 - ii) Cross-country fences and terrain;
 - iii) The quality of riding by an Athlete;
 - iv) The general conditions under which the Combination performed such as weather, surface and footing; and
 - v) The relative difficulty of the Show Jumping.

Generic

- a) The suitability of the Combination for the expected conditions in Millstreet
- b) The overall team balance of the Combinations that have been selected
- c) The ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at high level international competitions during the period outlined in Clause 4. The NESP may consider any, all or none of the following factors in its absolute discretion:
 - i) The demonstrated experience and/or success of the Combination;
 - ii) The ability, or potential ability of the Horse and/or Athlete in the Combination to perform under the stress and pressure of the Championship
 - iii) The ability of the Athlete to prepare their horse to be in peak condition for the Championship
 - iv) The Combinations consistency of performances outlined in Clause 4
 - v) The recency of the performances, the NESP may place more weight on more recent performances as an indicator of fitness and form to perform successfully at the Championship
- d) The ability to uphold the values of sportsmanship (including positive representation of the team and the sport at all times) will be highly regarded.
- e) This includes demonstrating respect for fellow team members, team staff, other competitors, officials, and the competition environment, and complying with all integrity and horse welfare requirements as guided by EA and FEI.

For avoidance of doubt, the NESP has the discretion to place greater or lesser emphasis on any one or more of the Competition, Objective or Discretionary factors as outlined above.



5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

For the avoidance of doubt and to assist Athletes in decision making when submitting an expression of interest, the EA High-Performance program will fund the following for the U25 Squad selected combinations:

- a) Entry fees according to the official FEI schedule for each combination
- b) Team uniform for Athletes and Grooms

The U25 Squad is self-funded for travel and other associated costs and therefore no financial assistance will be provided to selected Athletes for their travel to Millstreet.

6. NON-DISREPUTE

Without limiting the powers of the NESP, the EA CEO and the EA High-Performance Committee may remove an athlete from consideration for selection to the U25 Squad or Team if EA determines in its sole discretion that the Athlete:

- a) Has at any time engaged in conduct (whether publicly known or not) which has brought or would have the tendency to bring the Athlete or equestrian into disrepute or censure, or which would be inconsistent with, contrary to or prejudicial to EA policies, the best interests, image or values of EA, or as a result of which the Athlete's membership would not be in the best interests of the HP Squad; or
- b) Has at any time been convicted of a charge of any serious offence involving alcohol or drugs, or any sex offence, or any offence which is punishable by imprisonment.

7. INTEGRITY

As a condition of Selection and part of EA's commitment to upholding the highest standards of Integrity, EA will request Athlete consent for disclosure of any open Integrity complaints or substantial findings made against the Athlete in the past three (3) years. This information will be used solely for the purpose of evaluating eligibility and adherence to integrity standards. Refer to Appendix 1 which outlines the framework and includes the formal consent form.



8. SELECTION OMBUDSMAN

The High-Performance Committee (HPC) will appoint a Selection Ombudsman to assist Athletes and the HPC to understand the process of selection and to explore resolution of potential disputes concerning selection and non-selection.

8.1 Powers of the Selection Ombudsman

- a) Investigate acts and omissions of the EA National Discipline Selection Panels (NESP) in relation to the exercise of their powers under the Discipline Selection Policies where:
 - i) An Athlete has indicated that they are considering appealing a selection decision;
 - ii) A NESP seeks clarification; and
 - iii) The Selection Ombudsman wishes to investigate on their own motion.
- b) For the purpose of promoting and monitoring compliance with the relevant Discipline Selection Policy, the Selection Ombudsman:
 - i) May, and will be invited to, attend relevant meetings and have access to relevant materials and communications of the NESP;
 - ii) Communicates primarily with the High-Performance Director and Chairs of Selectors of Olympic and Paralympic disciplines; and
 - iii) Communicates directly to Athletes through explanatory and debriefing sessions arranged by the High-Performance Director.
- c) The Selection Ombudsman is not required to investigate all complaints or inquiries. For example, the Selection Ombudsman may refuse to deal with a matter if the Selection Ombudsman considers:
 - i) It is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith; or
 - ii) It lacks substance or credibility; or
 - iii) The subject matter of the complaint or inquiry has already been investigated or otherwise dealt with by the Selection Ombudsman.
- d) Investigations by the Selection Ombudsman must be completed promptly and within the timeframes governing rights of appeal by non-selected athletes.
- e) The Selection Ombudsman prepares timely written reports to the High-Performance Director that address any acts or omissions of the relevant NESP in relation to the exercise of their powers under the Discipline Selection policy and may make recommendations which must be given due consideration by the HPC and the relevant NESP. The report may at the discretion of the High-Performance Director be provided in full or in part to the Athlete but is otherwise confidential.



Appendix 1 – Sport Integrity and the National Integrity Framework

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) and Equestrian Australia are committed to protecting our sport. Threats to sports integrity, which may include competition-manipulation, doping and behaviors that impact people’s positive experience of sport are taken seriously.

More information on the National Integrity Framework can be found at: <https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/ea-integrity>

EA Integrity Check Consent Form

The consent form will be treated as a confidential document. All correspondence in relation to the Integrity Check must be directed to the EA Integrity Manager. To enable confidentiality, once completed and signed by the Athlete and their Witness, the Equestrian Australia Integrity Check Consent Form must be returned via email to integrity@equestrian.org.au .