



AUSTRALIAN
EQUESTRIAN
TEAM

EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA

HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Athlete Categorisation Guidelines 2025 - 2028
For the disciplines of Eventing and Para Dressage

Effective date: 10 September 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Equestrian Australia ('EA') High Performance program is funded by the Australian Sports Commission ('ASC') through the Australian Institute of Sport ('AIS') and directly and/or indirectly by the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia. The Athlete Categorisation Guidelines align with Australia's High Performance 2032+ Win Well strategy, and the key performance indicators within.

1.1 Background

Equestrian Australia is required to nominate athletes to the HP System Categorisation Panel against a sport specific National Athlete Categorisation framework. The Equestrian Australia National Athlete Categorisation Framework is shown as Table 1.

1.2 Strategic Context

The National Athlete Categorisation Framework provides a clear and consistent basis, both within the sport and across sports to:

- a) Identify the athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's performance targets at pinnacle events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games and World Championships
- b) Identify those athletes who have the will and want to win, and can perform when it counts;
- c) Inform the prioritization of support to these athletes; and
- d) Track their performances over time.

Athlete categorisation guidelines are applicable in Equestrian Sport in Australia in the disciplines of Eventing and Para Dressage only, to ensure alignment with the current EA High Performance Strategy. In time, following the development of a What it Takes to Win and Athlete Development Framework, these guidelines may be expanded to encompass the disciplines of Dressage and Showjumping.

1.3 Scope of the matrix and guidelines:

It is important to note that these guidelines apply to athletes who can compete in events/disciplines at Pinnacle events, but are not a selection document or policy, and are to be used solely as a guide for identifying athletes with the greatest potential to achieve Pinnacle Event success.

2. EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETE CATEGORISATION PANEL

The role of the EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel (EA HP ACP) is to assess and categorise the athlete cohort against EA's Athlete Categorisation Performance Matrix & Guidelines. The Panel will specifically consider an athlete's performance progression and potential, relative to EA's What it Takes to Win model, the Athlete Development Framework and Athlete Plan.

The EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel will submit the list of categorised athletes and supporting evidence to the HP System Categorisation Panel for endorsement via the High Performance Director, before notification is made to the athletes.

2.1 Composition

The composition of the EA HP ACP ensures the knowledge and capability required to make informed athlete categorisation decisions. All decisions of the EA HP ACP shall be by majority

vote. Each member of the EA HP ACP shall have one vote. In the event of a deadlock in voting, the chair's vote shall determine the decision.

The EA HP ACP is subject to change due to the nature of change within staff. The EA HP High Performance Director will notify the membership of any changes in membership of the EA HP ACP via an announcement on the EA website at the earliest opportunity.

The EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel is comprised of the following:

- a) The Chair of Selectors per relative discipline
- b) The High Performance Director, or the Para High Performance Lead;
- c) The National Technical Lead per relative discipline
- d) The Pathways Lead or relevant HP staff member per relative discipline
- e) Independent members such as the AIS Performance Consultant or other AIS representative/s in an observatory capacity.

3. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for and/or maintain categorisation, an athlete must:

- a) be an Australian citizen and eligible and available to represent Australia in international competition at the pinnacle event
- b) be a registered member of Equestrian Australia
- c) have signed an Athlete Agreement
- d) be available to attend off horse camps or squad sessions throughout the term of that agreement
- e) have an athlete plan approved by the EA High Performance program
- f) comply with all relevant Equestrian Australia policies and rules as amended from time to time including those regarding the welfare of the horse
- g) be in good financial standing with Equestrian Australia
- h) comply with all anti-doping requirements of the IOC, IPC, AIS, SIA and Equestrian Australia;
- i) be actively training toward the next pinnacle event in the discipline they are seeking categorisation in
- j) maintain the high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia; and
- k) not bring themselves, the sport, Equestrian Australia or any of its partners into disrepute.

4. CATEGORISATION PROCESS AND TIMELINES

- a) Athlete categorisation will be formally reviewed annually, in or around November of each year (at the conclusion of the international competition season) against the development and performance trajectories as outlined within Table 1 of these guidelines

- b) At this time, athletes may be added, transitioned out, or moved to a different category;
- c) Categorisation of athletes does not imply selection of those athletes to Equestrian Australia National Teams. These are governed by separate selection criteria available on the Equestrian Australia website. Equally, non-categorisation of athletes does not mean that they will be excluded from selection to Equestrian Australia National Teams;
- d) Athletes will remain in an Athlete Category until such time as they are moved or transitioned out
- e) Athletes must continue to demonstrate progression and improvement in areas of performance that shall be identified in their Athlete Plan and demonstrate that they are still on the trajectory to be on the Podium in the future. Athletes who fail to progress may be transitioned out of the identified Athlete Categories
- f) The EA HP ACP may, at its discretion, review an athlete at other times e.g. following a benchmark event or if an athlete is not actively training or demonstrating the required commitment levels as determined by Equestrian Australia and submit recommendation to the HP System Categorisation Panel for endorsement;
- g) Athletes may be excluded at any time from Categorisation at the discretion of Equestrian Australia, following endorsement by the HP System Categorisation Panel.

The annual process for categorising athletes will generally be as follows:

Annual monitoring of athlete cohort against EA's Athlete Categorisation Performance Matrix	Equestrian Australia submission of athlete categorisation data	Endorsement of athlete categorisation data	Categorisation of Athletes & Data available
EA will assess its athlete cohort against the EA Athlete Categorisation Performance Matrix & Guidelines and the athlete's performance progression & potential relative to the WITTW, ADF and Athlete Plan.	EA submit athlete lists and recommended categorisation level to the AIS – including supporting data. The National Institute Network is notified by the AIS. The HP System Categorisation Panel, led by the AIS, review submissions relative to EA's Athlete Categorisation Performance Matrix & Guidelines to ensure categorisation is applied consistency both across and within sports. If further clarification from EA is required, the AIS will notify EA.	AIS notifies EA when athlete categorisation has been endorsed by the HP System Categorisation Panel.	The AIS uploads EA's Athlete categorisation data to the AMS. EA are to notify athletes of their categorisation status. The AIS also provides data receipt to EA and ensures that the National Institute Network and relevant partners are notified.

5. FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION

5.1 In determining an athlete's current performance standard and future pinnacle event performance potential, the EA HP ACP may take into account the following factors in assessing athletes who have the best chance of contributing to the achievement of the Equestrian Australia High Performance goals and HP2032+ Win Well outcomes, and will weight the below factors at their discretion:

- a) an athlete's technical, physical and mental performance and ability against the What it Takes to Win (WITTW) or Athlete Development Framework (ADF)
- b) current performance and trajectory measured against the relevant Key Performance Indicators as set out in the table below on page 11
- c) recent international competition performances measured against the relevant indicators as set out in Equestrian Australia's Athlete Development Framework
- d) the extent to which the athlete has demonstrated ongoing commitment and application, including communication with national coaches, adherence to Individual Athlete Performance Plans, motivation to succeed and use of available resources within a daily performance environment to increase performance;
- e) an athlete's commitment to the level of training necessary to achieve the desired performance
- f) development and progression of performance against timeframes for development progression outlined in the ADF
- g) performance progression against adequate and differentiated WITTW and ADF standards for the Pinnacle Event (PE) or Benchmark Event (BE) event they are targeted for, noting that the metrics and evidence within the WITTW will be reviewed and amended at the conclusion of the most recent PE in the discipline of Eventing, and at the conclusion of both the most recent PE or BE in the discipline of Para Dressage, to allow this data to inform athlete categorisation;
- h) where an athlete has achieved performances eligible for athlete categorisation on more than one athlete/horse combination, then the categorisation level will be determined on the highest ranked combination. The athlete will receive support consistent with that highest ranked categorisation and will not be entitled to additional benefits for the other combination(s).

5.2 The EA HP ACP may, at its discretion, use a number of additional factors in assessing athlete's potential for future pinnacle event performance potential, including (without limitation):

- a) any specific guidance from the AIS (as advised from time to time) on Athlete Categorisation
- b) during the 12 months prior to categorisation, the extent to which the athlete has:
 - demonstrated a strong commitment to all training and attended all camps and sessions at which they were requested; and
 - participated in all international competition/s and camps for which they were selected;
- c) consistency in results and ability to repeat World Class results and deliver performances under pressure

- d) in Eventing only, consideration may be given to the technical features of each competition including but not limited to:
- Dressage Judging (including the breakdown of scores across multiple judges and/or trending dressage scores)
 - The relative difficulty of cross-country fences, terrain and time
 - The general conditions under which the combination performed, such as weather, surface and footing
 - The relative difficulty of the show jumping
- e) an athlete's commitment level to the use of the Equestrian Australia Athlete Management System
- f) Equestrian sport is demanding in terms of physical load to both the horse and rider and hence has a relatively high incidence of periods of injury and dropout. It is the responsibility of the Athlete to inform EA HP team of any injury to horse or rider that may affect their ability to compete. It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should still be identified, if pre-injury or illness they were already categorised, and meet the following minimum criteria:
- Has an individual athlete performance plan with a return to competition focus and timeframes outlined – maximum twelve (12) month period for either horse or rider
 - Is meeting the requirements of the agreed rehabilitation plan for either horse or rider; and
 - Is tracking against rehabilitation benchmarks to achieve pre-injury/illness performance outcomes.
- g) It is the responsibility of the athlete to notify the relevant EA HP staff team member of pregnancy, and following notification EA will work with the athlete as per the Associated Policy on pregnancy and becoming a new parent (9.3).

6. TIMING OF REVIEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 6.1** Athlete categorisation will take place every 12 months, following which athletes will be advised in writing of their nomination or categorisation, and only those athletes who are currently categorised by EA shall be notified in writing of their non-nomination.
- 6.2** In exceptional circumstances, the EA HP ACP may (in its sole discretion) approve athletes entering, moving between or exiting categories at other times. Such circumstances may include (without limitation) failing to comply with these guidelines, retirement, substantial performance gains, etc.

7. APPEALS PROCESS

Only athletes who have previously been categorised by EA within the preceding period may request reconsideration of the decision regarding their exit from categorisation or their change of categorisation level (**Request**). This Request must be in writing to the High Performance Director. In their Request, the athlete must address either or both of the following grounds for reconsideration, namely that the EA HP ACP:

- a) made an error of fact; or
- b) failed to consider a relevant performance standard.
- c) Each party will bear their own costs of the appeal.

The Request must be made within seven (7) days of the notification to the affected athlete.

Upon receipt of a valid Request, the High Performance Director will ask EA's Selection Ombudsman to review the athlete's Request. Following this review, the Selection Ombudsman may invite the EA HP ACP to reconsider their decision or may request the EA HP ACP provide further detail to the athlete addressing their concerns and/or the reasons for their decision. The Selection Ombudsman should provide reasons for their decision to the affected athlete and the EA HP ACP.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- a) the Selection Ombudsman is not entitled to make or substitute any categorisation decisions, any changes would need to be made by the EA HP ACP;
- b) athletes are not entitled to appeal against the categorization of any other athlete; and
- c) there is no further avenue of appeal.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE ATHLETE CATEGORISATION GUIDELINES

Equestrian Australia may amend this policy from time to time, generally following review after the conclusion of benchmark events. Any amendments to the guidelines shall take effect immediately after review and endorsement by the HP System Categorisation Panel.

Amendments will be communicated by:

- a) Posting on the Equestrian Australia website; and
- b) Email distribution to currently categorised athletes.

9. ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Within the Equestrian Australia Athlete Categorisation Guidelines, these policies have been developed to recognise athletes who are identified as having the potential to contribute to performance outcomes at future pinnacle event/s where one of the following may apply:

- a) An athlete is recovering from major injury or illness;
- b) An athlete is taking time away from competition;
- c) An athlete is pregnant or has recently become a new parent.

d) Athletes transitioning between horses

It is assumed an athlete nominated under an Associated Policy would usually be categorised under the Equestrian Australia Athlete Categorisation Guidelines and the athlete will return to the sport under the same categorisation (or similar).

9.1 Athletes recovering from major injury or illness

It is recognised that an athlete may still be a contributor to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event despite suffering/recovering from a major injury or illness.

Generally, athletes who fall into this category will still be identified within the Equestrian Athlete Categorisation Guidelines, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Pre-injury/illness the athlete was categorised;
- There is an athlete plan with a return to competition focus and timeframes outlined – including working with the AW&E team member (or equivalent);
- The athlete is meeting the requirements of the agreed rehabilitation plan; and
- The athlete is tracking against rehabilitation benchmarks to achieve pre-injury/illness performance outcomes.

9.2 Athletes taking time away from competition

It is recognised that on occasion, to contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event, an athlete may require some time away from competition for family, health and/or wellbeing reasons.

Generally, athletes who fall into this category will still be identified within the Equestrian Australia Athlete Categorisation Guidelines, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to taking some time away, the athlete was categorised;
- There is an agreed athlete plan focusing on maintaining physical and mental wellbeing as it aligns to the sports needs and performance standards;
- The athlete has an agreed return to sport and competition plan including timeframes and regular pre-determined meetings scheduled with Equestrian Australia's HPD (or equivalent); and
- The athlete maintains contact with AW&E staff (or equivalent) on a regular basis to ensure athletes are focussed on maintaining their wellbeing.

9.3 Athletes who are pregnant or have recently become a new parent

It is recognised that athletes may take some time away from intense training and competition when they become pregnant or have recently become a new parent. These athletes may still be on track to contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event.

Generally, athletes who fall into this category will still be identified within the Equestrian Australia Athlete Categorisation Guidelines, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to becoming pregnant (or new parent), the athlete was categorised;
- The athlete has an athlete plan focusing on maintaining physical and mental wellbeing as it aligns to the sports needs (and informed by specific medical advice as it relates to pregnancy and birth where required);
- The athlete has an agreed return to sport and competition plan including timeframes and regular pre-determined meetings scheduled with Equestrian Australia's HPD (or equivalent); and

- The athlete maintains contact with AW&E staff (or equivalent) on a regular basis to ensure athletes are focussed on maintaining their overall wellbeing.

9.4 Athletes transitioning between horses

It is recognised that there may be times when an athlete changes horse combination, either voluntarily or following a request from EA HP management.

Generally, athletes who fall into this category may still be identified within the Equestrian Australia Athlete Categorisation Guidelines at the same or lower level and therefore be offered a level of funding at the discretion of the High Performance Director in conjunction with the Technical Lead and/or Performance Pathways Lead, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- The athlete and horse combination has the appropriate identified physical characteristics, background, skills and potential commensurate with the required level; and
- The athlete has an individual athlete campaign plan approved by EA HP management confirming alignment to the National Squad's strategy and annual plan to deliver medal winning potential within an appropriate timeframe – usually the current Olympic or Paralympic cycle.

It is worth noting that some or all of the funds allocated may be conditional upon achieving specific key performance indicators until a qualifying performance can be achieved by the new athlete/horse combination.

TERMS USED

ADF	Athlete Development Framework
AIS	Australian Institute of Sport
ASC	Australian Sports Commission
BME	Benchmark Event (e.g. World Championships)
EA	Equestrian Australia
EA HP ACP	Equestrian Australia High Performance Athlete Categorisation Panel
HP	High Performance
HPD	High Performance Director
IAPP	Individual Athlete Performance Plan
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IPC	International Paralympic Committee
PE	Pinnacle Event (e.g. Olympic Games, Paralympic Games)
SIA	Sport Integrity Australia
WITTW	What it Takes to Win

TABLES

Table 1: Equestrian Australia National Athlete Categorisation Framework

Table 2A: Equestrian Australia Athlete Development Framework Performance Profile Factors - Eventing

Table 2B: Equestrian Australia Athlete Development Framework Performance Profile Factors - Para Equestrian

TABLE 1: EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA NATIONAL ATHLETE CATEGORISATION FRAMEWORK

GOLD SQUAD ¹ (eligible)	CATEGORY	NATIONAL ATHLETE CATEGORISATION GENERAL CRITERIA	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA CATEGORISATION CRITERIA – OLYMPIC (Eventing)	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA CATEGORISATION CRITERIA - PARALYMPIC	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA SPECIFIC PROGRESSION TIMELINES
	PODIUM	Performance Confirmation Medaled at pinnacle event or has been the World #1 or medaled at a World Championship event (in current cycle pinnacle event/discipline) in the past 24 months and demonstrates a trajectory capable of winning a medal at current cycle pinnacle event aligned to the WITTW as referenced in the NSO Athlete Performance Matrix.	1. Athletes who have won a medal at the most recent Olympic Games, within the last 24 months OR 2. Athletes who have won a medal at the most recent World Championships, within the past 24 months AND Demonstrates a trajectory capable of winning a medal at the next Olympic Games or World Championship with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW ² and ADF.	1. Athletes who have won a medal at the most recent Paralympic Games, within the past 24 months OR 2. Athletes who have won a medal at the most recent World Championships, within the past 24 months AND Demonstrates a trajectory capable of winning a medal at the next Paralympic Games or World Championship with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW ² and ADF.	24 months – if not continuing to meet the criteria for podium categorisation, athlete will be reviewed and either re-categorised or exited.
	PODIUM READY	Performance Ready Displays performance capability aligned with WITTW, demonstrating a trajectory capable of winning a medal at current cycle pinnacle event as referenced in the NSO athlete performance matrix.	1. Athletes who were members of a Top 6 placing team at the most recent Olympic Games or World Championships, within the past 24 months OR 2. Athletes who achieved an individual score of 36 or less (not inclusive of the team showjumping round) at the most recent Olympic Games or	1. Athletes who have placed in the Top 8 at the most recent Paralympic Games or World Championships in either the individual or Team competition, within the past 24 months OR 2. Athletes who have achieved an individual score in a Grand Prix A or B test that aligns with the Top 8	Undefined – until no longer meeting the KPI's for Podium Ready categorisation, which includes deemed capable of future Olympic / World Championship outcome

			<p>World Championships, within the past 24 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>3. Athletes who are consistently³ achieving results at CC14/5* level (as a combination) with a finishing score of 35 or less with clear cross country jumping penalties, within the past 24 months</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Athlete/horse combinations who demonstrate a trajectory capable of winning a medal at current cycle pinnacle event with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW² and ADF.</p>	<p>scoring athletes for their grade in the world over the past 12 months at CPEDI3* level.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Athlete/horse combinations that demonstrate a trajectory capable of winning a medal at current cycle pinnacle event with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW² and ADF</p>	<p>established by evidence-based trajectory.</p> <p>Must continue to demonstrate improvement in and engagement with the areas identified in the Individual Athlete Performance Plan.</p>
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¹ Gold squad membership will be recognised in two levels, aligned with AIS categorisation levels Podium and Podium Ready, with corresponding variations in technical, MDT, Performance support and funding prioritisation.

² noting that the metrics and evidence within the WITTW will be reviewed and amended at the conclusion of the most recent PE in the discipline of Eventing, and at the conclusion of both the most recent PE or BE in the discipline of Para Dressage, to allow this data to inform athlete categorisation.

³ 'consistently' for the Podium Ready category means at least twice

GREEN SQUAD (eligible)	CATEGORY	NATIONAL ATHLETE CATEGORISATION GENERAL CRITERIA	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA CATEGORISATION CRITERIA – OLYMPIC (Eventing)	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA CATEGORISATION CRITERIA - PARALYMPIC	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA SPECIFIC PROGRESSION TIMELINES
	PODIUM POTENTIAL	Performance Potential Displays performance capability to qualify and compete in current cycle pinnacle event, contributing to inspiration and wellbeing outcomes AND performance capability is aligned to WITTW demonstrating a trajectory capable of podium performance as referenced in the NSO athlete performance matrix.	1. Athletes who achieved an individual score of 40 or less (not inclusive of the team showjumping round) at the most recent Olympic Games or World Championships, within the past 24 months OR 2. Athletes that are consistently ¹ achieving results at CCI4/5* level (as a combination) with a finishing score of between 36 - 40, with clear cross country jumping penalties, within the past 24 months. AND Athlete/horse combinations that display performance capability and horsepower commensurate with the level required to qualify and compete in the next pinnacle event, and is meeting expectations with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW ² and ADF.	1. Athletes who have placed in the Top 12 at the most recent Paralympic Games or World championship, within the past 24 months OR 2. Athletes who have achieved a score of 70% in a Grand Prix A or B test on more than one occasion (as the same combination at more than one event) within the past 18 months, at CPEDI3* level. (One score may be achieved in the same tests at State or National Championships provided provided at least two FEI Para judges were judging the class) AND Athlete/horse combinations that display performance capability and horsepower commensurate with the level required to qualify and compete in the next pinnacle event, and is meeting expectations with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW ² and ADF.	Athlete/horse combinations should demonstrate positive progression, improvement in and engagement with the areas identified in the Individual Athlete Performance Plan referencing the trajectory rate as defined in the ADF. Athletes may remain at Podium Potential level until such time that they progress, or no longer meet the KPI's for the category.

¹ 'consistently' for the Podium Potential category means at least twice

² noting that the metrics and evidence within the WITTW will be reviewed and amended at the conclusion of the most recent PE in the discipline of Eventing, and at the conclusion of both the most recent PE or BE in the discipline of Para Dressage, to allow this data to inform athlete categorisation.

GENERATION NEXT SQUAD ¹ (eligible)	CATEGORY	NATIONAL ATHLETE CATEGORISATION GENERAL CRITERIA	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA CATEGORISATION CRITERIA – OLYMPIC (Eventing)	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA CATEGORISATION CRITERIA - PARALYMPIC	EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA SPECIFIC PROGRESSION TIMELINES
	DEVELOPING	Athlete Development Verification Displays performance potential aligned with WITTW and demonstrates a trajectory capable of continuing to future (next) cycle outcomes as referenced in the NSO athlete performance matrix.	1. Athletes who have (as a combination) achieved a result at CCI3* - L level with a finishing score of 32 or less, or have achieved an MER at CCI4* or CCI5* level, within the past 24 months. AND Athlete displays performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework and demonstrates a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW ² and ADF.	1. Athletes who have achieved a score of 68% in a Grand Prix A or B test on more than one occasion (as the same combination at more than one event) within the past 18 months, at CPEDI3* level. (One score may be achieved in the same tests at State or National Championships provided at least two FEI Para judges were judging the class) AND Athlete displays performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework and demonstrates a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW ² and ADF.	Athletes must be capable of progressing to Podium Potential within four years and must continue to demonstrate improvement in and engagement with the areas identified in the Individual Athlete Performance Plan referencing the trajectory rate as defined in the ADF.
	EMERGING	Athlete Development Confirmation Displays performance progression informed by the sport specific athlete development framework as it relates to WITTW for future cycle outcomes as referenced in the NSO athlete performance matrix.	1. Athletes that have achieved a performance commensurate with a score outlined in the higher levels of categorisation within the past 12 months OR 2. Athletes who have achieved an MER at CCI3* long level within the past 12 months	1. Athletes who have achieved a score of 68% in an Intermediate A or B test on more than one occasion (as the same combination at more than one event) within the past 18 months, at CPEDI2* level. (One score may be achieved in the same tests at State or National Championships provided at least two FEI Para judges were	Athletes in this categorisation should be aiming for future cycle therefore may remain at this level for between four and seven years and must continue to demonstrate

			<p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Athlete displays performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework and demonstrates a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW² and ADF</p>	<p>judging the class)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>2. Athletes who have achieved a score of 65% in a Grand Prix A or B test on more than one occasion (as the same combination at more than one event) within the past 18 months, at CPEDI3* level (One may be achieved in the same tests at State or National Championships provided at least two FEI Para judges were judging the class)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Athlete displays performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework and demonstrates a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the IAPP's and which are aligned to the WITTW² and ADF</p>	<p>improvement in and engagement with the areas identified in the Individual Athlete Performance Plan referencing the trajectory rate as defined in the ADF.</p>
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¹ *Generation Next squad membership will be recognised in 2 levels, aligned with AIS categorisation levels Developing and Emerging, with corresponding variations in technical, MDT, Performance support and funding prioritisation.*

² *noting that the metrics and evidence within the WITTW will be reviewed and amended at the conclusion of the most recent PE in the discipline of Eventing, and at the conclusion of both the most recent PE or BE in the discipline of Para Dressage, to allow this data to inform athlete categorisation.*

**TABLE 2A: EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
PROFILE FACTORS – EVENTING**

WORLD CLASS FUNDAMENTALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy and Precision • Rider-Horse harmony and Balance Management • Position stability, security and effectiveness
PLANNING & STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Macro, meso & micro planning aligned to SMART long-term performance goals • Strategic training & preparation targeted to Pinnacle Event Performance • Competition plan and performance strategy
PSYCHOLOGICAL FLEXIBILITY & RESILIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and / or regulation of mental state; including cognition, emotions, physiology, and behaviours • Psychological skills enabling athletes to develop and maintain high levels of focus during training and performance • Flexible execution of Competition Day Plans which include pre-performance routines, in-performance plans, and post-performance processes • Committed to specific, detailed, rider and horse training programs integrating dedicated high performance time, deliberate practice, simulation training, and experiential learning aimed at continual growth and development
ROBUST & FIT TO RIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordination, mobility and motor control to synchronise rider movements with the horse to achieve harmony • Leg & Trunk mobility, strength and muscular endurance to maintain a 2-point position throughout the cross country phase • The ability to maintain centre of balance over the horse's centre of balance and respond to unexpected perturbations from the horse (Proactive and reactive postural control). • Above average cardiovascular fitness with resistance to fatigue • Developed jumping mechanics
STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE ON & OFF THE HORSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship Management • Balance and Healthy Identity • Professionalism

**TABLE 2B: EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
PROFILE FACTORS – PARA EQUESTRIAN**

WORLD CLASS FUNDAMENTALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy and Precision • Rider-Horse harmony and Balance Management • Position stability, security and effectiveness
PLANNING & STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Macro, meso & micro planning aligned to SMART long-term performance goals • Strategic training & preparation targeted to Pinnacle Event Performance • Competition plan & Performance Strategy • Effective time and energy management
PSYCHOLOGICAL FLEXIBILITY & RESILIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Performance Athlete Mindset • Focus Control • Effective Emotional regulation
ROBUST & FIT TO RIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility & strength to achieve best position in the saddle • Proactive postural control • Reactive postural control • Ability to maintain physical performance over a multi-day schedule
STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE ON & OFF THE HORSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship Management • Balance and Healthy Identity • Professionalism