

FEI ENDURANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP for SENIORS 2026 – ~~Al Ula (KSA)~~ Butheeb (UAE)



NATIONAL DISCIPLINE SELECTION POLICY 2026 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ENDURANCE

Version ~~0405~~

Effective Date: 22 July 2025

Latest update: 31 July 2026

Review and Approval: Reviewed and approved by the Equestrian Australia Board.

1 Policy

This selection policy (the 'policy') covers the discipline of Endurance.

- 1.1 The selection criteria have been approved by the High Performance Committee (HPC) and the Board of Equestrian Australia (EA) and will take effect on and from the date of approval by the Board. It will cease to have effect at the conclusion of the Championships.
- 1.2 This selection criteria applies to:
 - a) All Athletes; and
 - b) EA

2 Objective

To select Combinations that in the absolute discretion of EA operating through the National Endurance Selection Panel ('the **NESP**') will be most likely to achieve the highest Competition results at the Championship.

The term 'best possible result' encompasses both a Team and an Individual result.

3 Eligibility Criteria

3.1 Athletes

For Athletes to be eligible for selection for the World Championship Nominated Entries, 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 is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the Athlete:

- a) is a national of Australia and eligible to compete for Australia as determined by International Federation (FEI) General Regulation **Article 119- Sport Nationality Status of Athletes** which can be [accessed here](#);
- b) is and will continue to be, eligible to participate in the Championships as an Australian athlete;
- c) is a member in good standing with EA;
- d) satisfies the Qualification system;
- e) has not committed any offence under the anti-doping policies of Sport Integrity Australia, the World Anti-doping Authority or EA for which a sanction imposed has not been discharged;
- f) has not committed any offence under any other policies of Sport Integrity Australia, the World Anti-doping Authority or EA for which a sanction imposed has not been discharged;
- g) together with the horse to be selected as a Combination, has achieved all the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER), as set out in the Qualification System;

- h) together with the horse, does not, is not likely to in the foreseeable future, suffer from any physical or mental impairment that would prevent the Athlete from competing at the Championship to the highest possible standard for that Athlete;
- 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 NESP, Chef d'Equipe and 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 examination 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 Horses' 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 to the Athlete by EA;
- q) has not by their actions or omissions brought the Athlete, the discipline of Endurance 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 Athlete's eligibility notwithstanding such conduct;
- r) will sign a EA Athlete Agreement when required by EA;
- s) will consent to a 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 World Championship competition.

3.2 Horses

EA will not select a Horse for the World Championship 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 as set by the International Federation;
- 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;
- d) has been registered with the International Federation 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 Trainer

In order for a Athlete and Horse to be selected for the World Championship Nominated Entries, EA must receive the signature of the Trainer of the Nominated Horse on the Equestrian Australia Horse Owner Agreement when requested by EA.

3.4 Horse Owner/s

In order for a Combination to be considered for selection to the Team, EA must receive from the owner/s (if applicable) of the selected horse a signed copy of the Equestrian Australia Horse Owner Agreement when requested by EA.

4 Process of Selection

Subject to the terms of the policy and any additional FEI qualification and entry requirements:

- 4.1 On or before Nominated Entries Date, the NESP will announce up to ten (10) Athletes and fourteen (14) Horses that have qualified to be nominated to the FEI ('the **World Championship Nominated Entries**').
- 4.2 On or before Definite Entries Date, the NESP will select up to five (5) Athletes and seven (7) horses (includes up to two {2} reserve horses) from the World Championship Nominated Entries (the '**World Championship Team**').

5 Substitution

5.1 Following selection to the World Championship Team, if:

- a) In the opinion of the NESP (in consultation with the High Performance Director, the Chef d'Equipe and the Team Veterinarian) there has been a loss of form or

fitness by a member of the World Championship Team that is assessed to be likely to be sustained and affect performance at the World Championship; or

- b) ceases to comply with the Athlete, Horse and Horse Owner eligibility in Clause 3; or
- c) breaches their EA Athlete Agreement;

that Combination may be replaced by another Combination previously selected for World Championship Nominated Entries ('the **Substitution**'). In this instance, the World Championship Substitution Combination:

- d) will be selected according to the criteria in Clause 4, 4.1-4.3 above.
- e) will be nominated in accordance with FEI General Regulation **Article 116, Clause 2 – referring to Substitutions**.

- 5.2** The choice of the World Championship Team/Substitutions is completely at the discretion of the NESP (guided by the High Performance Director, Chef D'Equipe and Team Veterinarian).

5 Selection Criteria

The selection criteria combine pre-requisite FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) followed by EA Competition Criteria and Discretionary Considerations.

6.1 Minimum Eligibility Requirement

To be able to participate in the Championship, all Athletes/Horses must achieve, as a Combination, the MER for a Championship pursuant to Chapter V, Article 836 of the FEI Endurance Rules the as set out in the under 2026 [Endurance Qualification](#).

6.2 Competition Criteria

In addition to Clause 6.1, and in evaluating the performances of Combinations, the NESP will take into account the following:

- a) The Combination must have further experience at FEI competitions in addition to the qualifying procedures.
- b) These results must be obtained between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2026 ~~(estimate of FEI qualifying period which is still to be advised)~~.
- c) Combinations must be, and remain, until the conclusion of the Championship, positive ambassadors for the Sport, the National Federation and the Championship.
- d) Higher selection ranking will be given to those Athletes who are more experienced with a proven competitive record. Ranking will be prioritized for successful completion of CEI3*, CEI2*, CEN160 km Vet Gate into Hold (VGIH) rides.
- e) Higher selection ranking will be given to those who successfully complete their rides in the top three (3) places and for successful rides at speeds > 15 kph, and

more for >18 kph.

- f) In addition to the qualifying procedures, it is expected that to be selected, a Senior Athlete will have successfully completed at least 4 x CEI2* or CEN 120km VGIH rides, and at least 2 x CEI3* or CEN 160km VGIH ride in the top three (3) places of completions in the appropriate division in those rides, and that at least one of these rides will have been a CEI3* at > 15 kph.
- g) Ranking points will be reduced for eliminations at any endurance rides in the preceding twenty-four (24) months.
- h) Higher selection ranking will be given to horses that have successfully completed high level, fast rides. Ranking will be prioritized for successful completion of CEI3*, CEI2*, CEN160 km Vet Gate into Hold (VGIH), riders. Higher selection ranking will be given for successful rides at speeds > 15 kph, and more for >18 kph.
- i) It is expected that to be selected a horse will have successfully completed at least 4 x CEI2* or CEN120km VGIH rides and at least 2 x CEI3* or CEN 160 km VGIH rides. Preference will be given to horses achieving top three (3) placings of completions in the appropriate division in those rides, in the twenty-four (24) months preceding selection, and that at least one of these rides will have been a CEI3* at > 15 kph.
- j) Fast recovery times at vet gates will also be considered in the horses overall performance.

6.3 Discretionary Considerations

For the purposes of assessing the performances of Combinations, the NESP will consider a variety of factors in its sole and absolute discretion. These factors include, but are not restricted to:

- Demonstrated potential to contribute to Team success at the World Championships.
- Consistency and progression of the Combinations performances.
- Suitability of the Combination for the World Championship environment.

The NESP will observe:

- a) the level of competition and the depth of the field at which the result was gained;
- b) an improving trend in the Combination during 2026;
- c) the ability of the Combination to compete successfully at high level international competitions;
- d) demonstrated experience/success at international events;
- e) the ability or potential of the Combination to perform under the stress and pressure of an event such as the Championship;

- f) the ability or potential of the Combination to perform under the stress and pressure of an event such as the Championship;
- g) the ability of the Athlete to contribute to an effective and harmonious national team;
- h) consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute toward a team score may be considered. If in the opinion of the NESP a consistent combination will contribute towards an effective team score, this combination may be nominated ahead of another combination that has performed well under the competition criteria but which in the opinion of the NESP, has the potential to be inconsistent.
- i) The age, soundness and fitness of the Horse.
- j) the physical form and fitness of the Athlete and their Horse; and
- k) the advice of EA High Performance Director, Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarians, particularly concerning the fitness of the Combination to perform at the required level.

6.4 The NESP has the discretion to place greater or lesser emphasis on any one or more of the factors outlined in Clause 6.3.

6.5 In determining whether a Combination has satisfied the criteria set out in Clause 3 and Clause 6, 6.2 to 6.3 above, EA may have regard to Extenuating Circumstances.

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 substantiated 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 Appeals

A non-selected Athlete may only appeal against their non-Selection in accordance with the EA Selection Appeals Policy. For more information, [click here](#).

9 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.

9.1 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.

10 Amendments

This Selection Criteria may only be amended with the approval of the Equestrian Australia Board. If amended, Equestrian Australia must publish the updated Selection Criteria to Equestrian Australia's Website and advise Athletes of the amendment.

11 Governing Law

This Selection Criteria is governed by the laws of the State of New South Wales.

12 Definitions and Interpretations

12.1 Definitions

Athlete means a person who:

- a) participates in the Sport; and
- b) is recognised by EA as eligible for Selection to the Team pursuant to this Selection Criteria.

Championships means the 2026 FEI World Championships for Seniors

Combination means an Athlete and Horse Combination

Definite Entries Date means the date on which definite entries to the Championships must be submitted to the FEI by EA and is generally four (4) days prior to the commencement of the event. The FEI is still to advise all National Federations of this date.

Extenuating Circumstances means:

- c) injury or illness;
- d) equipment failure;
- e) travel delays;
- f) bereavement or disability arising from death or serious illness of an immediate family member, which means a spouse, de facto partner, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild or sibling; or
- g) any other factors considered by EA to constitute extenuating circumstances.

FEI Rules means the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the World Championships published by the International Federation, as updated from time to time. For more information, [click here](#).

FEI Qualification Period means 01 January 2025 to the Nominated Entries Date.

High Performance Committee or HPC means the Committee with delegated responsibility for oversight and guidance of EA's High Performance Program.

Horse means the horse to be selected as part of a Combination.

International Federation means Federation Equestre Internationale ("FEI").

Minimum Eligibility Requirements or MER is FEI terminology and has the meaning given in the Qualification System (EA General Regulations Article 117 refers to MER as Minimum Eligibility Standard or MES/they are one and the same).

National Endurance Selection Panel (NESP) means the [Panel of Selectors](#) approved via the relevant appointment processes by the High Performance Committee and EA Board and charged with the responsibility of selecting Combinations to represent Australia in the sport of Endurance at the Championships.

Nominated Entries Date means the date on which nominated entries to the



Championships must be submitted to the FEI by EA and is generally twenty-eight (28) days prior to the commencement of the event. The FEI is still to advise all National Federations of this date.

Qualification system means the eligibility, participation and qualification criteria for the Sport in respect of the Championships issued by the FEI.

Selection Appeals Policy means the EA policy which is available [here](#).

Sport means Endurance.

Team means the team of athletes and officials selected by EA to participate in the Sport at the Championships.

12.2 Interpretation

- a) Unless the context otherwise requires, reference to:
 - i. a clause is to a clause of this Selection Criteria;
 - ii. the singular includes the plural and the converse also applies;
 - iii. persons include incorporated and unincorporated bodies, partnerships, joint ventures and associations and vice versa and their legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns and substitutes; and
 - iv. a party includes the party's executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns and substitutes.
- b) If a person to whom this Selection Criteria applies consists of more than one person, then this Selection Criteria binds them jointly and severally.
- c) A reference to time, day or date is to time, day or date of Sydney, Australia.
- d) Headings are for convenience only and do not form part of this Selection Criteria or affect its interpretation.



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.

Appendix 2 – Information to be provided to EA and the NESP

1. Name and details of horse/s nominated, including ride history, soundness, any history of metabolic or other issues. Please provide regular updates on horse performance, training, veterinary issues, and vaccinations.
2. Athlete's ride history
3. Name and details of at least 2 proposed grooms
4. Any disciplinary matters commenced in respect of the Athlete or any of their nominated grooms relating to Endurance
5. Any other information the Athlete considers relevant to assist in selection process (e.g. personal fitness)
6. At least one month in advance notice to ESP, on competitions planned for the month (including horse details, location, grooms in attendance).
7. Report on competition of the Athlete or any of her/his nominated horses as soon as possible afterward (copy of the logbook page preferred).