

EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA
HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

HIGH PERFORMANCE TALENT ID SQUAD CRITERIA 2027
EVENTING
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PURPOSE

The purpose of Equestrian Australia's (EA) High Performance (HP) Talent Identification (ID) Squad is to identify athletes who are showing the potential to progress to a National High Performance squad in the medium to long term. The EA HP Talent ID squad is a pre-categorisation squad; therefore athletes will not be categorised under the national athlete categorisation system.

As a member of Equestrian Australia's High Performance Talent ID Squad, each athlete will be provided with opportunity for group education and will be guided on their Individual Athlete Performance Plan (IAPP), coordinated by EA's High Performance staff. N.B: EA HP Talent ID squad athletes will not receive individual funding support. Instead, resourcing provided will be in the form of education support to continue developing the skills required to progress through the HP pathway.

EA HIGH PERFORMANCE TALENT ID SQUAD PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

To be eligible for application to the EA HP Eventing Talent ID squad, athletes must have met the following criteria for the relevant squad within the past twelve (12) months, and for combinations not already included in the EA High Performance squads - Gold, Green or Generation Next.

1. **Senior Talent ID Squad:**
   - **For eligibility to apply for consideration:** Athletes must achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement^ (MER) at CCI3*-L, CCI4* or CCI5* level (as a combination).

   AND they must also:

   - **display performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework** and demonstrate a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the ADF (Athlete Development Framework).

2. **Young Rider Talent ID Squad -** athletes aged between the year in which they turn 16 and the year in which they turn 25:
   - **For automatic inclusion:** Athletes achieve a result of 37 or below at CCI3*-L
   - **For eligibility to apply for consideration:** Athletes achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement^ (MER) at CCI3*-L, CCI4* or CCI5* level (as a combination).

   AND they must also:

   - **display performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework** and demonstrate a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes with reference to the key performance indicators which are articulated in the ADF (Athlete Development Framework).

^ - *Minimum Eligibility Requirement is achieved by completing a competition within minimum parameters of all round performance as follows:*

a. *Dressage Test: not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%)*

b. *Cross Country Test: a clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible device or having a maximum of one missing flag will maintain the MER result on Cross Country), and not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross Country Test for one, two, three and four star level competitions and 100 seconds in the case of five star level competitions.*

c. *Jumping Test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles*.

GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible for and/or maintain inclusion in the EA HP Talent ID squads, athletes are also required to meet the following general criteria. Athletes must:

a. be an Australian citizen (or have commenced the process of obtaining citizenship) and are eligible and available to represent Australia in international competition at the pinnacle event;

b. be a registered member of Equestrian Australia;

c. sign and comply with an EA High Performance Talent ID Squad Athletes Agreement;

d. be available to attend any online or in person off horse squad sessions throughout the term of that agreement;

e. demonstrate a willingness to work within the High Performance Program structure, which may include the development of an athlete plan in conjunction with and approved by the EA High Performance program staff;

f. comply with all relevant Equestrian Australia polices 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. maintain the high standard of personal behaviour; and

j. not bring themselves, the sport, Equestrian Australia or any of its partners into disrepute.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

In considering the General Criteria and the performances of athletes, the EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel may in their discretion give weight to extenuating circumstances as outlined within the EA HP Athlete Categorisation Guidelines Section 9. Associated Policies (Athletes recovering from major injury or illness, Athletes taking time away from competition, Athletes who are pregnant or have recently become a new parent and Athletes transitioning between horses).

NON-DISREPUTE

Without limiting the powers of the EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel, the EA Chief Executive Officer and the EA High Performance Committee may remove an athlete from consideration for selection to the EA HP Talent ID Squad or (if applicable) from the EA HP Talent ID Squad itself 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 EA HP Talent ID 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**.**

APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applications may be submitted by athletes who wish to be considered for nomination to the EA HP Talent ID squad. If you wish to request a review for nomination to the squad, please complete the provided application form and submit to the Equestrian Australia High Performance team for consideration.

Athletes that have met the required performance criteria (and who are not eligible for automatic inclusion) will be required to provide clear information regarding which factors of the Athlete Development Framework they feel their potential aligns with, and why. Video footage may be requested to allow assessment of these areas against the assessment tools developed specifically for the Athlete Development Framework. Should an athlete achieve the total threshold score required across the identified factors following assessment, they will be nominated to the EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel for appointment to the EA HP Talent ID squad.

Please note that Athletes already categorised are not eligible for consideration for EA HP Talent ID Squad.