

## EA PARA-DRESSAGE HIGH-PERFORMANCE SQUAD CRITERIA 2024

The purpose of Equestrian Australia's High-Performance Squads is to identify athletes who have the potential to represent Australia at World Championships and/or Paralympic Games level, so that they can be provided with appropriate planning and support.

As a member of Equestrian Australia's High-Performance Squad, each athlete will be guided on their Individual Performance Plan (IPP), coordinated by EA's High Performance staff.

The High Performance Squads aim to improve the performances of the athletes and horses (both on and off horse), with the ultimate goal of securing podium finishes in line with the Australian Institute of Sport's High Performance Investment Strategy.

### EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUADS PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

#### **GOLD (AIS ATHLETE CATEGORIES – PODIUM AND PODIUM READY)**

Athletes who have achieved Top 8 performances at the most recent Paralympic Games or World Championships and/or are considered capable of a medal performance at the upcoming World Championships or Paralympic Games.

#### **GREEN (AIS ATHLETE CATEGORIES – PODIUM READY AND PODIUM POTENTIAL)**

- A) Athletes who have represented Australia at the most recent Paralympic Games, World Championships or equivalent and finished in the Top 12; and/or are considered capable of a medal performance at the next World Championships or Paralympic Games
- B) Athlete and Horse Combinations that have achieved results of 70% or more in the last 12 months in International Para-Equestrian Grand Prix A and/or B Events (CPEDI3\* or above) and are demonstrating a capability of medal performances at future upcoming World Championships or Paralympic Games.

#### **GENERATION NEXT (AIS ATHLETE CATEGORIES – DEVELOPING AND EMERGING)**

Athlete and Horse Combinations that are proven emerging talent with performances and results of 65% or more in the last 12 months in International CPEDI Para-Equestrian Intermediate A and/or B, Grand Prix A and/or B Events (CPEDI2\*, CPEDI3\* or equivalent), or in the same tests in a domestic event judged by at least two FEI judges. These athletes must be indicating potential and capability of medal performances at future World Championships and/or Paralympic Games.

### GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA

To be included in the Equestrian Australia High HP Squads athletes are required to meet the following criteria:

- Athlete must have met the HP Squad Performance Criteria.
- Athletes must have demonstrated fitness, rider experience, and ability to develop and maintain a consistent training program. They must have demonstrated that they are

ready for a rigorous training program/preparation as required for successful international standard competition.

- Athletes must demonstrate a willingness to work within the High Performance Program structure, including but not limited to: facilitating effective communication between the athlete's support staff (coach, vet, farrier etc.) and the program/team support staff, submitting training and competition plans to the relevant High Performance staff as requested, responding to communication from HP staff in a timely manner and attending training camps and other HP program activities as required.
- The primary focus will be on athletes who have shown the ability or potential to represent Australia at International level at a high standard.
- All HP Squad athletes must sign and comply with an Equestrian Australia Athletes Agreement. Agreements must be signed and returned to the EA High Performance department.
- In all instances, the standard of competition, the number of competitors, the number and level/experience of the judges and the overall quality of the competition will be taken into consideration. Whilst performances at FEI / EA events will be used as a guide, competing at major events will be necessary to ensure consideration.
- Athlete's horses must be sound and fit to compete to the satisfaction of the EA-appointed vet. Athletes and owners must be prepared to submit their horses for fitness assessments by an EA-appointed vet as requested.
- Athletes must be fit and able to compete to the satisfaction of the relevant High Performance Staff.
- The Generation Next squad is primarily a Talent ID and Development program, therefore an athlete whose horse becomes unavailable through injury or other circumstances may, at the discretion of the selectors, remain on the squad for a period of time during which they are actively taking steps to address their lack of horsepower and continue to demonstrate commitment to the HP program. If at the end of this period, after consultation with the rider, coaches and HP management it is deemed the athlete is still lacking suitable horsepower, they will be removed from the squad. Athletes that have been in the program for a prolonged period and not made the progression to the next level (Green) may also be removed with due notice.

Whilst the squads will typically be reviewed every six months, the Selectors reserve their right to add additional athlete and/or athlete and horse combinations at any time.

## EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

In considering the General Criteria and the performances of Athletes, the Selectors may in their discretion give weight to extenuating circumstances.

Extenuating circumstances means an inability to compete and/or attend competition or training, or satisfy any other attendance required under the Selection Criteria arising from: (A) injury or illness; (B) horse unavailability; (C) travel delays; (D) bereavement; and/or (E) any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.

In consideration of extenuating circumstances, a decision in each case will be made by the Selectors (or their delegate) in their sole discretion on an individual basis.

## NON-DISREPUTE

Without limiting the powers of the Selectors, the EA Board may remove an athlete from consideration for selection to the HP Squad or (if applicable) from the HP 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 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.

## AIS NATIONAL ATHLETE CATEGORIZATION FRAMEWORK DEFINITIONS

### 1. PODIUM

An athlete who had a medal performance at a Paralympic Games, World Championships or equivalent event in the previous 24 months and is considered capable of a medal at the next Paralympic Games.

### 2. PODIUM READY

An athlete who placed fourth to eighth at the most recent Paralympic Games, World Championships or equivalent event and is considered capable of progressing to Podium level, targeting a medal at the next Paralympic Games.

### 3. PODIUM POTENTIAL

An athlete who has achieved agreed performance benchmarks which reliably indicate their future potential for podium success. The athlete must be considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Ready in the next two years.

### 4. DEVELOPING

An athlete who has progressed through a reliable national talent confirmation phase and placed within a dedicated national development program. The athlete is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Potential in the next two years.

### 5. EMERGING

An athlete who has been identified by an NSO via a valid and reliable talent identification profiling method. The athlete is considered capable of progressing to at least Developing in the next two years.