

EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA
HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUAD CRITERIA 2027
PARA DRESSAGE
Effective date: November/December 2026, pending AIS endorsement

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PURPOSE

The purpose of Equestrian Australia's High-Performance Squads is to identify, support and develop athletes who have the potential to represent Australia at World Championships and/or Paralympic Games level.

The aim of the High Performance Squads is to improve the performances of identified athletes and horses by taking a holistic approach to their development both on and off horse, with the ultimate goal of securing podium finishes in line with Sport Australia's 2032+ Win Well High Performance Investment Strategy.

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

EA HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUADS PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

GOLD SQUAD (AIS athlete categories – Podium and Podium Ready)

To be eligible for nomination to the Gold Squad, athletes must achieve performance criteria in line with EA's Athlete Categorisation guidelines for either category within the respective squad, as outlined below.

Podium

Athletes must have met ***one*** of the following two criteria to be eligible for categorisation at Podium level **within the past 24 months:**

1. Athletes that have won a medal at the most recent Paralympic Games; or
2. Athletes that have won a medal at the most recent World Championships

AND they must also:

Demonstrate a trajectory capable of winning a medal at the next Paralympic Games or World Championships, with reference to the key performance indicators articulated in the Individual Athlete Performance Plans (IAPPs) and which are aligned to the What it takes to Win (WITTW) and the ADF (Athlete Development Framework).

Podium Ready

Athletes must have met the following two criteria to be eligible for categorisation at Podium Ready level:

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**

AND they must also:

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 Individual Athlete Performance Plans (IAPPs) and which are aligned to the What it takes to Win (WITTW) and the ADF (Athlete Development Framework).

GREEN SQUAD (AIS athlete category – Podium Potential)

To be eligible for nomination to the Green Squad, athletes must achieve performance criteria in line with EA's Athlete Categorisation guidelines for the respective squad, as outlined below.

Podium Potential

Athletes must have met ***one*** of the following two criteria to be eligible for categorisation at Podium Potential level:

1. Athletes who have placed in the Top 12 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 a score of 70% in a Grand Prix A or B test at more than one event (as the same combination) at CPEDI3* level, **within the past 24 months**. (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 they must also:

Demonstrate a trajectory capable of selection onto a pinnacle event team within the next four years, and be meeting expectations with reference to the key performance indicators that are articulated in the Individual Athlete Performance Plans (IAPPs) and which are aligned to the What it takes to Win (WITTW) and the ADF (Athlete Development Framework).

GENERATION NEXT SQUAD (AIS athlete categories – Developing and Emerging)

To be eligible for nomination to the Generation Next Squad, athletes must achieve performance criteria in line with EA's Athlete Categorisation guidelines for either category within the respective squad, as outlined below.

Developing

Athletes must have met the following criteria to be eligible for categorisation at Developing level:

1. Athletes who have achieved a score of 68% in a Grand Prix A or B test at more than one event (as the same combination) at CPEDI3* level, **within the past 24 months**. (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 they must also:

Display performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework and What It Takes To Win (WITTW) and demonstrate a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes.

Emerging

Athletes meet ***one*** of the following two criteria to be eligible for categorisation at Emerging level:

1. Athletes who have achieved a score of 68% in an Intermediate A or B test at more than one event (as the same combination) at CPEDI2* level, **within the past 24 months** (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); or

2. Athletes who have achieved a score of 65% in a Grand Prix A or B test on more than one event (as the same combination) at CPEDI3* level, **within the last 24 months** (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 they must also:

Display performance potential aligned with the Athlete Development Framework and What It Takes To Win (WITTW) and demonstrate a trajectory capable of contributing to future cycle outcomes.

GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible for and/or maintain inclusion in the Equestrian Australia High Performance squads, athletes are also required to meet the following general criteria:

1. Athletes must 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
2. Athletes must be a registered member of Equestrian Australia
3. Athletes must sign and comply with an EA High Performance Athletes Agreement
4. Athletes must have access to a horse/s that displays the performance capability and horse power commensurate with the level required for the relevant Athlete Categorisation
5. Athletes must have and comply with a signed Horse Agreement
6. Athletes must be available to attend off horse camps or squad sessions throughout the term of that agreement
7. Athletes must demonstrate a willingness to work within the High Performance Program structure, which includes the development of an athlete plan in conjunction with and approved by the EA High Performance program staff
8. Athletes must comply with all relevant Equestrian Australia polices and rules as amended from time to time including those regarding the welfare of the horse
9. Athletes must be in good financial standing with Equestrian Australia
10. Athletes must comply with all anti-doping requirements of the IOC, IPC, AIS, SIA and Equestrian Australia;
    Athletes must be actively training toward the next pinnacle event, relevant to their Athlete Categorisation
11. Athletes must maintain the high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia; and

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

EA HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETE CATEGORISATION PANEL

The EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel will be responsible for assessing and nominating athletes to the National HP Para squads.

Whilst the High Performance squads are typically reviewed every six months, the EA HP Athlete Categorisation Panel reserve the right to add additional athletes and/or athlete and horse combinations at any time (noting that those athletes may remain uncategorised until the next availability for nomination for categorisation).

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 CEO and the EA High Performance Committee 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.