



AUSTRALIAN  
EQUESTRIAN  
TEAM

## EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

### HIGH PERFORMANCE TALENT ID SQUAD CRITERIA 2026 PARA DRESSAGE

Effective date: 1 November 2025  
Updated: 14 January 2026

## 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 nomination to the EA HP Para Dressage Talent ID squad, athletes must have met **one** of the following three criteria:

1. Have achieved a score of 68% in a Novice A or B test on more than one occasion (as the same combination at more than one event) within the past 18 months, at CPEDI 1\* 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); OR
2. Have achieved a score of 66% 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 judging the class); OR
3. Athletes who **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).

## 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 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 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 applying against Performance criteria 3 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.

