



AUSTRALIAN  
EQUESTRIAN  
TEAM

## EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

**OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION CRITERIA 2026**  
**EVENTING – U25's - ADELAIDE CCI3\*-L 16 – 19 APRIL**

Effective date: 15 November 2025

## 1. PURPOSE

To select four (4) U25 Rider athlete/horse combinations who are able to achieve the best possible outcome at the 2026 Oceania Championships, and who are able to contribute to the future development of the Australian Eventing Team.

## 2. PROCESS OF SELECTION

Subject to the eligibility requirements and any additional EA/FEI/OC qualification/entry requirements, the process of selection will follow the steps outlined below.

### 2.1 Expressions of interest

Expressions of interest will be sought from eligible combinations who in 2026 are aged between the year in which they turn 16 and the year in which they turn 25, with submissions due no later than 5pm Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

### 2.2 Selection

**2.2.1** On or before 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the EA National Eventing Selection Panel (NESP) will select a squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations to be named as the '**Oceania Squad**'. The Oceania Squad will be comprised of:

- a. The four (4) Young Rider athlete/horse combinations to compete at the Oceania Championships (the '**Young Rider Team**')
- b. Two (2) Young Rider athlete/horse reserve combinations

**2.2.2** Together, the Senior Teams and the U25 Team will be known as the '**Oceania Team**'.

**2.2.3** Following the first horse inspection, or earlier as deemed appropriate by the Chef d'Equipe, members of the Oceania Team will be notified of the running order for each athlete within their respective teams.

### 2.3 Substitution

Following selection of the Oceania Team, if:

**2.3.1** In the opinion of the NESP (in consultation with the High Performance Director, HP Eventing Technical Lead, Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the Oceania Team that is likely to be sustained and affect performance at the Oceania Championships; or

**2.3.2** a member of the Oceania Team contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or

**2.3.3** a member of the Oceania Team does not meet the requirements outlined in the athlete's agreement

that member of the Oceania Team may be replaced by a reserve combination or another suitably qualified and eligible combination as identified by the NESP.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY

For Athletes to be eligible for selection to the Oceania Squad, they must:

- 3.1** be a current member of Equestrian Australia
- 3.2** hold current FEI registration
- 3.3** be eligible to compete for Australia as per the FEI General Regulations article 119
- 3.4** have fulfilled the minimum eligibility requirements as set out by the FEI for qualification at the relevant level of competition for U25's.
- 3.5** be willing to make their horse(s) available for examination at a time and locations reasonably requested by the Team Vet and accept and implement the reasonable recommendations of the Team Vet
- 3.6** have signed the National Squad Athlete Agreement or an Australian Equestrian Team member agreement
- 3.7** satisfy any additional preconditions advised in writing to the athlete by EA prior to or at the time of selection for the Oceania Squad
- 3.8** demonstrate to the satisfaction of EA that they are not suffering any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing in the Championships to the highest possible standard; and
- 3.9** have acted and at all times act in such a manner so as to not bring the athlete, the discipline of Eventing or Equestrian Australia into public disrepute or censure.

For Horses to be eligible for selection to the Oceania Squad, they must:

- 3.10** be registered with both Equestrian Australia and the FEI
- 3.11** hold a valid FEI passport or an EA National ID document or relevant equivalent.

#### **4. SELECTION CRITERIA:**

The Selection Panel will select four (4) eligible Athletes as part of a combination who, in the opinion of the NESP, in its absolute discretion:

- a) will be most likely to achieve the highest competitive results at Oceania Championships; and
- b) are, and will remain until the conclusion of the Oceania Championships, positive ambassadors for the sport and Equestrian Australia.

For the purpose of assessing Combinations against the above requirements, the NESP will consider the following competition, objective and discretionary factors in its sole and absolute discretion.

##### **4.1 Competition Factors**

- (i) Results achieved by the combination at international competitions at CCI4\*-S, CCI3\*-L, CCI3\*-S levels and/or national competitions at CCN3\*-S during 2024, 2025 and 2026.
- (ii) Results achieved by the Combination prior to 2024 **may** be considered to demonstrate the experience of the Combination.

## **4.2 Objective Factors**

- (i) The final score (across all three phases of competition) of the Combination at the competitions set out in clause 4.1;
- (ii) The scores achieved by the combination at the Combination in each individual phase of the competitions set out in clause 4.1;
- (iii) The final placing of the combination at the competitions set out in clause 4.1. For avoidance of doubt, the final placing of each Combination at such competitions will not be determinative for the purpose of nomination; and
- (iv) Data and analysis provided by external providers including (but not limited to) the Australian Institute of Sport and EquiRatings.

## **4.3 Discretionary Factors**

### **Specific:**

- (i) The performance of each Combination at the competitions set out in the clause 4.1 in relation to the quality and number of the competitors at each competition;
- (ii) The technical features of each competition set out in clause 4.1 including but not limited to:
  - a) Dressage judging (including the breakdown of scores across multiple judges);
  - b) Cross-country fences and terrain;
  - c) The quality of riding by an athlete;
  - d) The general conditions under which the Combination performed, such as weather, surface and footing; and
  - e) The relative difficulty of the Show Jumping

### **Generic:**

- (i) The suitability of the combination for the expected conditions in Adelaide.
- (ii) The overall balance of the athlete/horses combinations that have been selected.
- (iii) The ability and experience of the athlete/horse combination to compete successfully at high level international competition during the period outlined in clause 4.1(ii)(iii). The NESP may consider any, all or none of the following factors in its absolute discretion:
  - a) The demonstrated experience and /or success of the combination
  - b) The ability, or potential ability, of the Horse and/or Athlete in the combination to perform under the stress and pressure of the Oceania Championships
  - c) The ability of the Athlete to prepare their horse to be in peak condition for the Oceania Championships
  - d) The ability for the athlete to contribute toward an effective team environment; and
  - e) The combinations consistency of performances outlined in clause 4.1(ii)(iii).

the team and the sport at all times, with reference to the EA HP LA 2028 strategy, and in line with Australia's 2032+ Win well strategy) will be highly regarded. This includes demonstrating respect for fellow team members, team staff, other competitors, officials, and the competition environment, and complying with all integrity and horse welfare requirement as guided by EA/FEI.

For avoidance of doubt, the NESP has the discretion to place greater or lesser emphasis on any one or more of the competition, Objective or Discretionary Factors as outlined above.

## 5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

For the avoidance of doubt and to assist athletes in decision making when submitting an expression of interest, the Equestrian Australia High Performance program will fund the following for the Oceania Championships campaign:

- a. Entry fees for the Oceania Team
- b. Team uniform for athletes and grooms

The U25 team is self-funded for travel and therefore no financial assistance will be provided to selected athletes for their travel to Adelaide for themselves, or their horses or grooms.

## 6. NON-DISREPUTE

Without limiting the powers of the NESP, the EA CEO and the EA High Performance Committee may remove an athlete from consideration for selection to the Oceania squad or team 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