



USEF EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAMS
Eventing Observation List
2026 Revised Criteria and Benefits

Vision of the Observation List:

The Observation List aims to identify athletes and/or combinations with the potential to move up to the Pre-Elite or Elite Program or have a podium finish at the next FEI World Championships or Olympic Games and support these combinations in their preparations to represent the U.S.

The Observation List is a tool for the USEF Eventing High-Performance Manager, the High-Performance Advisor, the USEF Human (HSSM) and Equine (ESSM) Sport Science Medicine Staff, and the USEF Eventing Department Staff to remain in contact with athletes who have currently not met the objective criteria for the Elite or Pre-Elite Programs but are within reach of doing so.

The Observation List is NOT published on the USEF website.

Qualification Criteria for Observation List:

Combinations may be named to the Observation List by achieving ONE of the following criteria:

1. Combinations who have represented the U.S. on an FEI World Championship, Pan American Games, or Olympic Games Team and who are not already a participant in one of the Eventing Pathway Programs.
2. Combinations who are removed from the Pre-Elite or Elite Program for not achieving the criteria to retain program membership. Examples as to why a combination has not met the Program Criteria include, but are not limited to:
 - Injury or illness of the Horse.
 - Injury or illness of the Athlete.
 - Force Majeure.

**Athletes or horses that are removed from a Program due to a violation of the USEF Code of Conduct, or who are not in good standing with US Equestrian are INELIGIBLE for the Observation List or any Pathway Program.*

3. Recommendation by the USEF Eventing Development Coach or High-Performance Manager, and in consultation with the Director, FEI Sport.

Criteria for Membership Retention to the Observation List:

Retention on the Observation List is for one calendar year from the enrollment notification. The Athlete must remain in good standing with US Equestrian. Observation List Membership will not be retained if the Athlete does not keep the ride on the Horse. The High-Performance Manager, in consultation with the Director, FEI Sport, may retain an athlete on the Observation List for multiple years.

Eventing Observation List Benefits:

- Support from the USEF Eventing High-Performance Manager for guidance and consultation on setting Key Performance Indicators, Individual Performance Plans, and personal program development.



- Support from the USEF Director, Eventing Elite Program, for guidance and consultation on setting Key Performance Indicators, Individual Performance Plans, and personal program development.
- Access to USEF Human (HSSM) and Equine (ESSM) Sport Science Medicine programs and resources, when available. Including but not limited to the Veterinary Program, Team Farrier, Team Equine Physiotherapist, Team Human Physiotherapist, and access to USOPC Athlete Resources.
- Opportunity to participate in organized USEF training sessions and central additional training opportunities, if space is available.
- Opportunity to apply for additional funding opportunities provided by US Equestrian.

If you have any questions about the 2025 Observation List or Elite Programs, please get in touch with Christina Vaughn, Director, Eventing Elite Program, at cvaughn@usef.org or +1 (859) 225-6917.