



Eventing Program Structure

Elite Program - Run by USEF with funding from USEF/USEF Foundation

Goals: Olympic qualification and medals in the current Games cycle.

- Limited number of athlete / horse combinations that need management and finishing touches. *Not about selecting the “top” 6 / 8 / 10 in the U.S. but about selecting those that are or about to be internationally competitive at Games level.*
- Identified via selectors with input from Performance Director.
- Performance Director and USEF Managing Director led – communication, competition planning, selection methodology, logistical planning.
- Competing at a given level does not imply “elite athlete status”; consistent success internationally does.

Selection/Identification

Selection will be made by the Selectors with advice from the Technical Advisor, Eventing Managing Director and Eventing SSM Staff. Selectors will meet as required, but typically in November (following Galway Downs CCI and June (following Luhmuhlen CCI4*) to review training lists and programs.

Criteria will include

- The athlete / horse must be perceived to be competitive at the next World or Olympic Games. As a guide:
 - The athlete / horse should be on track to achieve, at CCI3* or CCI4*, an average dressage score of 70% or above, an average show jumping score of 4 penalties or better and an average cross country score of no more than 5 penalty points (20 seconds) slower than the fastest time in the division.
 - The form and results of horse / rider combinations from dressage competitions and show jumping competitions may be taken into consideration
- Depth (string of competitive horses at CI2* level and above)
- The athlete’s results at CI3*/4* level on other horses
- Ability of the athlete to produce peak performances in conditions similar to or at Games.
- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested by Selectors
- Agreement to Requirements of Program
- Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes’ own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program / Team support staff.



Benefits/Support

- Access to Elite Program resources (Technical Advisor, Human/Horse SSM programs, USEF Staff)
- Financial support through coaching/training grants and European grants
- Travel Grants on application
- Bi-annual review with Performance Director to analyze performance, deficiencies in personal program, sophisticated approach as to what is missing to get riders to next step. Funding set against agreed Targets / KPIs
- Detailed planning for horses on a four-year cycle to target horses to specific Games, championships and events.
- Logistical planning/resources
- Coaching by Performance Director if requested by athlete

Targeted Events - Goals

- 2020 Olympic Games – Medal
- 2020 Olympic Games – Qualification
- 2018 WEG – Achieve Olympic Qualification
- Pan American Games – objective will be dependent on outcome of 2018
- Nations Cup Competitions
- Targeted CCI3*, CICO3*s and CCI4* Events in the USA and overseas

Requirements to Maintain Membership

- Must set targets to encourage improved performance and results
- The Elite Program Members will be reviewed twice annually, those unable to show improved results, meet their targets, no longer have the ride on a horse capable of meeting the criteria, or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.
- Demonstrate involvement with Human SSM Program as available and appropriate.
- Encourage communication between support staff and USEF Eventing support staff.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct
- Abide by USEF Code of Conduct



Development Program – Run by USEF with funding from USEF/USET Foundation (Two-tiered Program)

Identification and support on the road to the Elite Program, measured by success at (not participation in) CCI3*, CICO3* and CCI4* competitions.

Tier 1 – Elite Potential - Tier 1 is designed to support experienced international athletes who have horses that are on a trajectory to reach the Elite criteria in the next 4 years and experienced international athletes who have horses that do not meet the Elite criteria but that remain in contention for selection for the next World or Olympic Games.

Tier 2- Development - Tier 2 is aimed at athletes who have not previously attained Team selection or Elite criteria that are on a trajectory to achieve Elite status in this or the next Quad. It is an athlete / horse Program.

Performance Director managed with support from Emerging Athlete Coach as necessary.

Encourage Developing Athletes to remain with their own coach(s) and utilize the strengths of their own program if it is effective. Test their progress at training sessions to challenge and inspire them to move up the Pathway and provide opportunities where appropriate. Identify certain KPIs and requirements to stay on the Development Program.

Goals

- Progression on to the Elite program
- International exposure
- Medals in the next quad

Selection/Identification Tier 1 Elite Potential

EITHER

1. The athlete / horse partnership must be perceived to have *the potential* to be in the selection zone for the next World Equestrian Games and / or next Olympic Games but the horse has yet to fulfil all of the criteria as outlined in the Elite Program. The following criteria will be used
 - o Athlete/Horse are on the trajectory to reach Elite Criteria in the current Games cycle
 - Trajectory of Dressage scores at 3* or above
 - Show Jumping and cross country record including time faults
 - Competiveness at 3* level
 - o Depth (string of competitive horses at 2* level and above)
 - o The athlete's results at 3* and 4* on other horses
 - o Ability of the athlete to produce peak performances in conditions similar to or at Games.
 - o Subject to;
 - Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested by Selectors
 - Agreement to Requirements of Program
 - Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program / Team support staff.



OR

2. The Athlete/Horse were on the submitted FEI Nominated Entry list of the previous Olympic or World Equestrian Games and have an MER at a CCI at the CCI3* level within the previous 12 months (current form) and subject to
 - o Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested by Selectors
 - o Agreement to Requirements of Program
 - o Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program / Team support staff.

Selection/Identification Tier 2 – Development

1. Minimum Requirement of MER at CCI2* or above in last 24 months
2. By Application and/or Identification
3. Once named to the program, analysis will be done at Training Sessions. Criteria will include:
 - a. Communication skills
 - b. Quality of the athlete's horse and their perceived ability to progress up the competition levels
 - c. Technical skills
 - d. Trainability
 - e. Strategy & Planning
 - f. Commitment
 - g. Mindset
 - h. Management
 - i. Fitness (athlete / equine)
 - j. Competition record
 - k. The length of time the athlete has been on the Program and their progression up the Pathway in conjunction with what is considered the Program can still offer.
4. Demonstrate Potential for Elite Program; provide plans for filling gap to Elite
5. Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested by Selectors
6. Agreement to Requirements of Program
7. Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program / Team support staff.



Benefits/Support – still being develop/funding needs to be secured

1. Three to five training opportunities a year with the Performance Director and/or Emerging Athlete Coach
(The how and who are for further discussion)
2. Access to coaching and/or oversight at specific events
3. Consider a regional component for unofficial team competition.
4. The goal is to fund one developing trip (Europe) a year for this group (up to 4 horses funded)
5. Performance review bi-annually to analyze performance, deficiencies in personal program, sophisticated approach as to what is missing to get riders to next step. Any funding set against agreed Targets / KPIs

For both Programs, the requirements to Maintain Membership are as follows

- Must set targets to encourage improved performance and results
- The Development Program Members will be reviewed twice annually, those unable to show improved results, meet their targets, no longer have the ride on a horse capable of meeting the criteria, or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.
- Encourage communication between support staff and USEF Eventing support staff.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct
- Abide by USEF Code of Conduct
- Sign Program Agreement
- Athletes that have been on the program for a prolonged period but have not made Elite will be removed with due warning.

Emerging Athlete Program – Run by USEF at national level, USEA at regional level

See separate Emerging Athletes Document.