USEF EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAMS
Eventing Elite Program
2025 Criteria and Benefits

Vision of the Eventing Elite Program:
The Eventing Elite Program aims to identify combinations with demonstrated medal-winning potential at the next FEI World Championships or Olympic Games and support these combinations in their preparations to represent the U.S.

Qualification Criteria for the Eventing Elite Program:
Combinations who meet the vision of the Program will automatically be enrolled in the Elite Program upon the achievement of one or more of the following qualification criteria:

1. Achievement of a **Competition Result**, as defined below:
- Top 5 Placing OR finishing on a score ≤ 33 at one of the following events:
    - Badminton Horse Trials CCI5*-L
    - Burghley Horse Trials CCI5*-L
- Top 3 Placing OR finishing on a score ≤ 33 at one of the following events:
    - Kentucky CCI5*-L
    - Maryland 5 Star - CCI5*-L
    - Pau CCI5*-L
    - Luhmuhlen CCI5*-L
- 1st Place Finish on a score ≤ 30 at a CCI4*-L.
- Individual Medal at an Olympic Games or World Championships.
- Contributing score to a Team Medal at an Olympic Games or FEI World Championships.

2. Achieving an EquiRating's ELO Score of 710 or higher. Scores will be evaluated following the Kentucky CCI5*-L and the Maryland CCI5*-L, respectively. *One-time automatic enrollment to the Elite Program per combination.*

Exception: *Program membership may be reviewed if the horse has met the objective criteria but sustains an injury following. The horse must be evaluated by the Team Veterinarian or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian to discuss rehabilitation plans and to determine a prognosis for return to form within the term of membership. The Director of FEI Sport will determine membership status with recommendations from the Team Veterinarian, High Performance Manager, Director, Eventing Elite Program, and Managing Director of Eventing.*

Criteria for Membership Retention to the Elite Program:
Retention in the Elite Program is automatic for one calendar year from the notification of Program enrollment. The Athlete must remain in good standing with US Equestrian. Elite Program Membership will expire if the Athlete does not retain the ride on the Horse.

The updated Elite Program list will be published in December and July.

Following the one-year automatic enrollment, the combination must continue to meet the vision of the Program, in addition to meeting one or more of the following criteria to maintain Elite Program membership:

1. Achievement of a **Competition Result**, as defined below, within 12 months of the initial membership of the Elite Program:
   - Top 5 Placing <u>OR</u> finishing on a score ≤ 33 at one of the following events:
     - Badminton Horse Trials CCI5*-L
     - Burghley Horse Trials CCI5*-L
   - Top 3 Placing OR finishing on a score ≤ 33 at one of the following events:
     - Kentucky CCI5*-L
     - Maryland 5 Star - CCI5*-L
     - Pau CCI5*-L
     - Luhmuhlen CCI5*-L
   - 1st Place Finish on a score ≤ 30 at a CCI4*-L.
   - Individual Medal at an Olympic Games or World Championships.
   - Contributing score to a Team Medal at an Olympic Games or World Championships.

2. Improving the combination's <u>EquiRating's ELO Score</u> of 710 or higher, to be evaluated twice a year following the Kentucky CCI5*-L and the Maryland CCI5*-L, respectively.

3. Achieving an EquiRating's Power Average at the CCI5*-L of 36 or below, to be evaluated twice a year following the Kentucky CCI5*-L and the Maryland CCI5*-L, respectively.

4. Receiving a bye to any of the above criteria, recommended by the High Performance Manager, and approved by the Director of FEI Sport. *Examples include*:
   - FEI World Championship, Olympic, or Pan American Game preparation, resulting in missing an event that would have produced a Competition Result or positively impacted ELO Score.
   - Force Majeure.

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Benefits of the Eventing Elite Program:
- 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.
- Direct Athlete Funding of $10,000.00 annually for Program Membership. While funding is not dependent on the completion of KPIs, the funds will not become available until the KPIs are set and reviewed with the High Performance Manager. Direct Athlete Funding for the Program is to be utilized for training and coaching to provide athlete support for a decentralized coaching structure. It may also be used toward competitions that support the IPPs and/or Sport Science Medicine for the Program Horse(s).
- Opportunity to participate in organized USEF training sessions and central additional training opportunities.
- Opportunity to apply for additional funding opportunities provided by USEF.
- Data analysis with EquiRatings.
- Inclusion on USEF press releases relating to the Eventing Pathway Programs and published on the www.usef.org website.

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