



USEF EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAMS  
Eventing Pre-Elite Program  
2026 Criteria and Benefits

**Vision of the Pre-Elite Program:**

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

**Qualification Criteria for Pre-Elite Program Membership:**

Combinations who meet TWO of the following criteria within a 12-month period, at TWO different competitions, ONE of which must be achieved at a long format:

1. Finish on a score  $\leq$  40 at a CCI5\*-L (including World Championships and Olympic Games)
2. Finish on a score  $\leq$  36 at a CCI4\*-L
3. Finish on a score  $\leq$  33 at a CCI4\*-S
4. EquiRatings HPR Score:
  - a. HPR Score  $\geq$  86 at a CCI5\*-L (including World Championships and Olympic Games)
  - b. HPR Score  $\geq$  89 at a CCI4\*-L
  - c. HPR Score  $\geq$  91 at a CCI4\*-S
5. Program Membership recommended by the High Performance Manager and approved by the Director of FEI Sport. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - FEI World Championship, Olympic, or Pan American Game long list preparation, resulting in missing an event that would have produced a Competition Result or positively impacted ELO/HPR Score.
  - Individual Medal or contribution to a Team Gold Medal at a Pan American Games.
  - Force Majeure.

EquiRatings HPR (High-Performance Rating):

The HPR accounts for course difficulty, scoring conditions, and the quality of opposition.

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 Pre-Elite Program:**

Retention in the Pre-Elite Program is automatic for one calendar year from the notification of Program enrollment. The Athlete must remain in good standing with US Equestrian. Pre-Elite Program Membership will not be retained if the Athlete does not keep the ride on the Horse.

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



Following the one-year automatic enrollment, the combination must meet with the High Performance Manager and Director, Eventing Elite Program, to set KPIs and monitor progression to maintain Pre-Elite Program Membership.

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**Benefits of the Eventing Pre-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 \$7,500.00 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 US Equestrian.
- Data analysis with EquiRatings.
- Inclusion on USEF press releases relating to the Eventing Pathway Programs and published on the [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) website.

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