



USEF EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAMS Eventing Development 25 Program 2026 Criteria and Benefits

Vision of the Eventing Development 25 Program:

The Eventing Development 25 Program (Dev. 25 Program) aims to identify and support Athletes who are 25 years or under with the perceived talent and ability to move up to the Eventing Development Program by focusing on developing the fundamental skills necessary to progress up the Pathway or to be a future Team Athlete.

The expectation of the Dev. 25 Program is that the Athlete will progress up the Eventing Pathway to the Development Program by age 25, or within four (4) years of first being included in the Dev. 25 Program, whichever comes first.

Qualification Criteria for the Eventing Development 25 Program:

Objective Program Criteria:

1. The Athlete must be 25 y/o or younger in 2026, according to the FEI age requirements (born on or after January 1, 2001).
2. The Athlete must apply for the Program by submitting an application via their USEF Athlete Dashboard.
3. The Athlete must attend an Assessment Session.
 - a. If an Athlete has been a member of the Dev. 25 Program for the preceding two (2) years, the requirement for attending an Assessment Session is waived.
4. Athletes who meet the vision of the Program will be eligible for the Dev. 25 Program Assessment Sessions upon achievement of an MER at a CCI3*-L within the previous 2 years, as defined in the [FEI Eventing Rules Art. 517](#).

A Minimum Eligibility Requirement is achieved by completing a Competition within minimum parameters of all round performance as follows:

- a) Dressage Test: not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%).
- b) Cross Country test:
 - Cross Country Test: A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible device or having a maximum of one missing flag will maintain the MER result on Cross Country)
 - Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross Country Test for, one, two, three and four star level Competitions and 100 seconds in the case of five star level Competitions.
- c) Jumping test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

Athletes who are 25 or under (per FEI Regulations) for 2026 and achieve the criteria at a CCI3-L will remain in the Development 25 Program. Athletes who have previously competed at an Eventing Olympic Games, FEI World Championship, or Pan American Games as a Team member or Individual are ineligible for the USEF Eventing Development or Development 25 Programs.*

Exception: The USEF Eventing Team Chef d'Equipe and High-Performance Manager, Leslie Law, may





“talent spot” Athletes who have not achieved an MER per the objective criteria to participate in the Development 25 Program Assessment Session. The Athlete MUST still apply to be considered for the Program.

Subjective Program Criteria: Athletes must show a commitment to learning and developing their personal or professional equestrian programs.

Program participation is voluntary; however, if an Athlete withdraws from the Dev. 25 Program, they are not eligible to receive funding for the 2026 European Development Tour.

Criteria for Membership Retention in the Development 25 Program:

Athletes who have attended an Assessment Session and continue to meet the criteria following their fall season will be invited to the 2026 Dev. 25 Program. The Athlete must remain in good standing with US Equestrian.

Training Session dates and locations will be announced.

The expectation of the Dev. 25 Program is that the Athlete will progress to the Development Program by age 25, or within four (4) years of first being included in the Dev. 25 Program, whichever comes first.

To maintain Dev. 25 Program membership, Athletes must be annually selected for the Program through the application and Assessment Session process.

While in the Program, Athletes are expected to:

- Participate in 6-month reviews and work with the USEF Eventing Team Chef d’Equipe and High-Performance Manager, and the USEF Director, Eventing Development Programs, to set competition targets and KPIs.
 - Meet targets and KPIs. If the targets or KPIs are not met, the Athlete must work with the USEF Eventing Team Chef d’Equipe and High-Performance Manager to create a performance plan that will lead to obtaining the targets and KPIs in the future.
- Communicate with the USEF Eventing Team Chef d’Equipe and High-Performance Manager, and the USEF Director, Eventing Development Programs, on the status of their overall program, including veterinary updates, competition, and training plans.
- Maintain horsepower that is capable of meeting the Qualification Criteria for the Development Program.
- Plan for creating or obtaining horsepower to progress up the Eventing Pathway or achieve long-term goals.

Benefits of the Eventing Development 25 Program:

- Support from the USEF Eventing Team Chef d’Equipe and High-Performance Manager for guidance and consultation on setting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Individual Performance Plans (IPPs),





and personal program development to progress up the Eventing Pathway (training, strategic planning, setting competition and training targets, data analysis, etc.).

- Opportunity to participate in USEF training sessions/clinics/coaching sessions.
- Opportunity to participate in the USEF European Development Tour and receive funding associated with the Tour.
- 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.
- Inclusion in USEF press releases relating to the Eventing Pathway Programs and published on the www.usef.org website.

If you have any questions about the 2026 Development Program, please get in touch with Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing, at abraun@usef.org or +1 (859) 225-6970.

