



## USEF EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAMS Eventing Development Program 2025 Criteria and Benefits

### **Vision of the Eventing Development 25 Program:**

The Eventing Development 25 Program aims to identify and support Athletes under the age of 25 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 Development 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 Development 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 according to the FEI age requirements (born on or after January 1, 2000).
2. The Athlete must submit 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 Development 25 Program for the preceding two (2) years, the requirement for attending an Assessment Session is waived.
4. Athletes that meet the vision of the Program will be eligible for the Development 25 Program Assessment Sessions upon achievement of an MER at a CCI3\*-L within the previous 2 years, as defined below:
  - Dressage Test: not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%).
  - 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.
  - Jumping test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

Exception: *The Development Coach may “talent spot” Athletes that have not achieved an MER per the objective criteria to participate in the Development 25 Program Assessment Session. The Athlete MUST still submit an application to be considered for the Program.*

*Athletes who have previously participated on an Eventing Olympic Games, FEI World Championship, or Pan American Games Team are ineligible for the Development or Development 25 Programs.*

**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 Development 25 Program, they are not eligible to receive funding for the 2025 European Development Tour.





### **Criteria for Membership Retention to the Development 25 Program:**

Athletes who have attended the Assessment Sessions and continued to meet the criteria following their fall season will be invited to the Development 25 Program. Athletes must partake in a required January Training Session to maintain membership in the Development 25 Program. The Athlete must remain in good standing with US Equestrian.

Athletes that are based in the U.S. will be required to participate in a multiday training session in January of the Program year. The Training Session will incorporate the Human (HSSM) and Equine (ESSM) Sports Science Medicine programs, as well as mounted training with the Development Coach.

The expectation of the Development 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 Development 25 Program, whichever comes first.

To maintain Development 25 Program membership, Athletes must be annually selected to 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 Development Coach to set competition targets and KPIs.
  - Meet targets and KPIs. If the targets or KPIs are not met, the Athlete must work with the Development Coach to create a performance plan that will lead to obtaining the targets and KPIs in the future.
- Communicate with the Development Coach 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 and achieve long-term goals.

### **Benefits of the Eventing Development 25 Program:**

- Support from the USEF Development Coach for guidance and consultation on setting Key Performance Indicators, Individual Performance Plans, 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](http://www.usef.org) website.

If you have any questions about the 2025 Development Program, please get in touch with Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Development Programs, at [gstobbs@usef.org](mailto:gstobbs@usef.org) or +1 (859) 225-6929.

