



USEF EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAMS Eventing Development Program 2026 Criteria and Benefits

Vision of the Eventing Development Program:

The Eventing Development Program aims to identify and support Athlete/Horse combinations with the perceived talent and ability to move up to the Eventing Pre-Elite Program within the next 2-3 years by focusing on developing the skills needed to progress up the Pathway. Combinations are limited to a maximum of four (4) years in the Development Program.

Qualification Criteria for the Eventing Development Program:

Objective Program Criteria: Combinations that meet the vision of the Program will be eligible for the 2026 Development Program upon achievement of a competition result within the previous 12 months (December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2025), as defined below:

- Finish on a score ≤ 40 at a CCI5*-L
- Finish on a score ≤ 36 at a CCI4*-L
- Finish on a score ≤ 33 at a CCI3*-L – Horses 7 y/o or younger:
 - Zero Cross-Country Jump and Time Penalties
- Finish on a score ≤ 30 at a CCI3*-L – Horses 8 y/o or older:
 - Zero Cross-Country Jump and Time Penalties

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 identify Combinations that meet the vision of the Program but have not achieved a competition result per the objective criteria to participate in the 2026 Development 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 Development Program, they are not eligible to receive funding for the 2026 European Development Tour.

Criteria for Membership Retention to the Development Program:

Combinations having met the criteria will be invited to the 2026 Development Program. The Athlete must remain in good standing with US Equestrian. Development Program Membership will expire if the Athlete does not retain the ride on the Horse.

Combinations are limited to a maximum of four (4) years in the Development Program. To maintain Development Program membership, Athletes must:

- 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 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.
- 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 2026 Development Program, please get in touch with Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing at abraun@usef.org +1 (859) 225-6970.

