

2026

# EVENTING



## PATHWAY PROGRAM



## EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAM

ELITE

PRE-ELITE

DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT 25



To learn more about the Eventing Pathway Programs, visit the USEF Eventing webpage. In addition to the information included within this booklet, program membership lists, retention criteria, program benefits, and more can be found on the website.



## ELITE PROGRAM

### Program Aim

The aim of the Eventing Elite Program is to identify and support combinations with demonstrated medal-winning potential at the next World Championships or Olympic Games, and provide them with the best possible preparation to represent the U.S. The aim of the Elite Program is to deliver sustained success at the World and Olympic levels, which is defined as:

- Qualification for Olympic Games (Primary Target: World Championships; Second Target: Pan American Games and Nations Cup Series)
- Medal-zone performances trending towards winning medal(s) at the Olympic and World level
- Meeting mutually agreed on USOPC targets and Key Performance Indicators ("KPI")

### 2026 Program Criteria

Combinations will automatically be enrolled in the Elite Program on a biannual basis upon 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  $\leq 33$  at one of the following events:
  - » Badminton CCI5\*-L
  - » Burghley CCI5\*-L
- Top 3 placing OR finishing on a score  $\leq 33$  at one of the following events:
  - » Kentucky CCI5\*-L
  - » Maryland CCI5\*-L
  - » Pau CCI5\*-L
  - » Luhmuhlen CCI5\*-L
- First place finish on a score  $\leq 30$  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 Championship

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. One-time automatic enrollment to the Elite Program per combination.



Photo: Shannon Brinkman; Photo: Libby Law Photography

## PRE-ELITE PROGRAM

### Program Aim

The aim of the Eventing Pre-Elite Program is to identify and support combinations with perceived talent and ability of medal-winning potential at a future World Championships or Olympic Games and provide them with the best possible preparation to progress up the Pathway to the Elite Program.

### 2026 Program Criteria

Athlete/horse combinations must meet TWO of the following criteria within a 12-month period, 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
4. Program Membership recommended by the High Performance Manager and approved by the Director of FEI Sport. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - 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 Gold 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

## DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### Program Aim

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.

### 2026 Program Criteria

Athlete/horse combinations must obtain one of the following results within the previous 12 months:

- Finish on a score  $\leq 40$  at a CCI5\*-L
- Finish on a score  $\leq 36$  at a CCI4\*-L
- Finish on a score  $\leq 33$  at a CCI3\*-L – Horses 7 y/o or younger:
  - » Zero Cross-Country Jump and Time Penalties
- Finish on a score  $\leq 30$  at a CCI3\*-L – Horses 8 y/o or older:
  - » Zero Cross-Country Jump and Time Penalties
- Athletes who have previously participated on an Eventing Olympic Games, World Championship, or Pan American Games team are not eligible for the Development Program.
- Athletes who are 25 or under (by FEI Regulations) for 2026 and achieved the criteria at a CCI3\*-L will remain in the Development 25 Athlete Program.
- 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.

## DEVELOPMENT 25 PROGRAM

### Program Aim

The Development 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.

### 2026 Program Criteria

- An MER at a CCI3\*-L (within the past two years) or talent-spotted by the USEF Eventing Team Chef d'Equipe and High-Performance Manager
- Application review evaluating potential talent, work ethic, and commitment to the program
- Mounted evaluation and interview at in-person assessment session. If athletes have been a member of the Development 25 Program for the preceding two years, the requirement for attending an assessment will be waived.



## 2026 TARGETED COMPETITIONS FOR U.S. EVENTING

Bicton CCIO4\*-NC-S  
May 22-25, 2026

FEI U25 Eventing World Championships  
July 22-26, 2026

FEI World Championships  
August 12-16, 2026

Boekelo CCIO4\*-NC-S (tentative)  
October 1-4, 2026

## 2026 DEVELOPMENT 25 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TARGETS

- Four-day training sessions including mounted training with the Development Coach and unmounted educational sessions
  - » Lectures and hands-on seminar topics: horse management, veterinary care, owner development, equine and human sports science medicine, EquiRatings
- European Development Tour
  - » The aim of the Tour is for past and present participants of the Development Programs to gain valuable international competition, travel and training experiences through extended immersion in a Team environment.
- Athletes with eligible horses will be encouraged to participate in the Developing Horse Championship & the Developing Horse Series
- The development of an educational curriculum for implementation into the Program in 2026



### **Leslie Law**

USEF Eventing High Performance Manager/Chef d'Equipe

## **MEET THE TEAM**

Karyn Shuter	Eventing High Performance Advisor
Dr. Susan Johns	Eventing Team Veterinarian
Rebecca Ratte	Team Farrier
Dr. Mark Hart	Team Physician
Linda Vegher	Team Equine Physiotherapist
Jennifer Mitchell	Team Human Physiotherapist

## **USEF STAFF**

David O'Connor	Chief of Sport
Hallye Griffin	Director, FEI Sport
Amber Braun	Managing Director, Eventing
Gemma Stobbs	Director, Eventing Development Programs
Christina Vaughn	Director, Eventing Elite Program
Alison Lloyd	Director, Eventing Sport Administration
Julianna Olcott	Sport Programs Specialist