

EVENTING – SENIOR & YOUNG RIDER OCEANIA TEAM SELECTION & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Event: Senior and Young Rider Oceania Team Competition

Locations and Dates: Adelaide Equestrian Festival 16 – 19 April 2026.

Competition Details:

- The senior team competition will be contested at CCI4*-S level
- The Young Rider competition will be contested at CCI3*-L level

Team Composition: There will be a Senior and a Young Rider team and each team will comprise of four athlete and horse combinations and both teams will be supported by a Chef d'Equipe and Team Manager.

1. Objective

The objective of this selection criteria is to identify and select the best-suited horse-athlete combinations to represent New Zealand in the Eventing Oceania team competition, ensuring a competitive and successful team performance that also provides development opportunities for future athletes who are committed to, and capable of, future championship representation.

2. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for selection, athletes and horses must meet the following basic requirements.

Athlete Requirements:

- Must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- Must hold a current ESNZ membership.
- Adhere to the requirements as listed in chapter three of the ESNZ Special Regulations for National Selection – [click here to view](#)
- Senior Riders – Athlete is considered a Senior from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.
- Young Riders – Athlete is considered a Young Rider from beginning of the calendar year in which they turn 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 25* (*age range agreed with Equestrian Australia for this competition only)

Horse Requirements:

- Must be registered with ESNZ
- Must be FEI registered and have an ESNZ ID Book or FEI Recognition Card (compulsory for 4*)

3. Selection Process

The selection process is divided into two stages:

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission

Athletes must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) on the form provided and submit their completed EOI to the Eventing sport manager, Ginny Tocher, eventing@nzequestrian.org.nz by 15 August 2025.

Stage 2: Performance Assessment

Evaluation of the combinations results and performances being considered from 1 August 2024 to 15 December 2025:

- Young Riders their competition performance record from 1 August 2024 to 15 December 2025 in light of the Objective, giving specific consideration to more recent form at 3* and/or 4* competitions.
- Senior Riders their competition performance record from 1 August 2024 to 15 December 2025 in light of the Objective, giving specific consideration to more recent form at 4* and/or 5* competitions.

4. Selection Criteria

The final selection will consider the following criteria:

- 4.1 The Athletes' experience and performance record at the required level
- 4.2 The Horse' age, temperament, soundness history, whether the Horse travels well, acclimatises well to a change of environment and whether it is accustomed to being stabled
- 4.3 The Horses' suitability to competing in the proposed team and the likely conditions of the Adelaide Equestrian Festival
- 4.4 The Athlete's relationships with other Athletes in the team or squad, as well as with ESNZ staff and other personnel who may be involved with the Event, team or squad
- 4.5 The Athlete taking ownership and responsibility for their own performance and constantly challenging their own performance level
- 4.6 The Athlete's conduct and behaviour at previous events, tours and training;
- 4.7 The results of any assessments, tests or examinations carried out with respect to the Athlete, which may affect their ability to perform to their best;
- 4.8 The results of any assessments, tests or examinations carried out with respect to the horse, which may affect their ability to perform to their best.

5. Other Factors

The selection panel may also take into account the following factors:

1. any other factors which they consider applicable to their decision, such as those set out in Article 14 of the ESNZ Special Regulation (National Selection); and
2. the willingness of the rider, the horses' owner(s) and support team to contribute positively to the Objective of this Selection Criteria.

6. Key Dates

- EOI Submission Deadline: 15 August 2025
- Oceania Squad Announcement: 19 December 2025
- Oceania Team Selection Announcement: 6 March 2026

7. Appeals Process

As per Article 18 of ESNZ Special Regulations for National Selection – [click here to view](#)

8. Additional Information

- Return travel from NZ to Australia for athletes and horses is to be self funded. Athletes are also responsible for any veterinary treatment costs, farrier, hard feed and supplements while on ground in Australia.
- Equestrian Australia as host nation provides;
 - Transport to and from the airport to the venue for athletes, grooms and horses.
 - 7 nights accommodation and meals for athletes and grooms
 - Hay and stabling for horses
 - Entry Fees
 - A van or vans for athlete/team transport for 7 days while in Australia
 - Welcome function for both nations
- Where possible the selection panel will select a squad of 6 combinations in December 2025 so selected combinations have time to prepare and fundraise accordingly. The final team of 4 combinations will be selected following Matamata Horse Trial and announced by 6 March 2026.
- The selection process will be conducted by High Performance.

