



National Youth Development Jumping Squad Selection Criteria – May 2010

Definitions

Jumping National High Performance Program

The Jumping program is based around programs to increase the base of talented riders coming through the ranks, whilst at the same time supporting elite squad riders.

This greater focus on longer-term sustainable high performance development rather than just funding a select few elite combinations reflects a change in philosophy. However, strong team results remain a goal if Australia is to become competitive at the international level.

Young Rider

Riders must be classified as Young Riders according to the FEI criteria:
Annex IX Article 3

A person may compete as a young rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which he or she reaches the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which he or she reaches the age of 21.

National Youth Development Program

The National Youth Development Program targeting riders aged 16 – 25 is now a fundamental part of the High Performance Program. In addition to further developing riding and horse training skills of squad members, a key component of the program will be the 'development of the rider as an athlete' utilising the services of National and State Institutes of Sport.

The 21 – 25 Age group is not a competition age group and is primarily to provide support to rider within the High Performance system. These riders will compete in normal Senior competition.

National Jumping Technical Director & Assistant National Jumping Technical Director (ANJTD)

Responsible for developing and implementing a system of training and preparing riders and horses in the High Performance Program that will best prepare Australian riders for International Competition, particularly at the Olympic and World Equestrian Games.

Training clinics

The National Jumping Technical Director & ANJTD conducts clinics in States involving National Elite and Development Squad riders plus National Youth Development and State squad riders.

Squad riders are encouraged to bring their personal trainers to clinics to interact with the National Jumping Technical Director.

Background

In 2008 Equestrian Australia established a selection process for the National Young Rider Squad, which was based on competition and general criteria. This was primarily based on performance from a series of competitions across all States over standardised courses designed by one of Australia's leading Course Designers. One underlying criteria for being eligible to be included as a nomination is for the rider to be consistently jumping courses of 1.30 metres in height.

The High Performance Program recognising there is a the gap from the end of a Young Rider's tenure at age 21, and maturing into senior ranks has widened the program also targeting riders aged from 21–25 years.

Riders in the traditional Young Rider group will continue to be selected under the competition and general criteria, however the riders in the 21-25 year age group will be nominated on merit as determined by the National Selection Panel.

National Youth Development Jumping Squad Selection Criteria

In the High Performance Program, there are three squads broadly selected as follows:

1. Elite Jumping Squad:

Members of this squad are, in principle, combinations who are established at Grand Prix level and are seeking selection to the Australian Team for the next Major Championships, i.e. Olympic or World Equestrian Games.

2. National Development Jumping Squad:

Members of this squad are, in principle, talented combinations who may not be ready for competition at the next Major Championship, but may be ready for competition the following WEG and/or Olympic Games.

3. National Youth Development Jumping Squad:

Members of this squad are, in principle, talented individuals who are identified as riders who produce consistent levels of performance and achievements in jumping classes of 1.30m and better. The development of these riders will ensure they are able to move to senior competition with a professional and guided background.

National Youth Development Squad General Conditions

Riders must meet the following criteria for inclusion on the National Youth Development Jumping Squad.

- Riders must have demonstrated fitness, rider experience, and ability to develop and maintain a consistent training program. They must have demonstrated that they are ready for a training program/preparation as required for successful competition. Riders must be fit and uninjured and able to compete to the satisfaction of the National Jumping Selectors.
- The primary focus will be on individual riders that demonstrate a potential to represent Australia.
- All riders must sign the Youth Development Squad Agreement before inclusion in the National Squad. Agreements must be signed and returned to the EA National Office before any combination will be named officially on any National Squad. (*note – this will be more like a code of conduct*)
- In all instances when assessing performances, the standard of competition, the number of competitors, the level/experience of Course Designer and the overall quality of the competition will be taken into consideration. Whilst performances at FEI / EA events will be used as a guide, competitions at major National and State events will be necessary to ensure consideration for squad selection. In the case of overseas-based combinations, performances at national shows may be considered.
- Riders will be encouraged to submit a competition and training development plan and meet with a Case Management Panel when requested as part of the EA High Performance Program.

All squads will be based on the General and Competition criteria as listed. The selection will be based on performances in the preceding twelve months.

In selecting and assessing potential squad members, the National Selectors will source information from and consult with a range of suitable personnel with the appropriate expertise and knowledge focusing on the respective State Selectors.

The **National Selectors** will nominate the National Squads in December each year with Squads to be formally announced on 26 January.

In principle, the National Youth Development Jumping Squad will comprise up to 16 riders; however, this may vary from time to time. The squad will be selected based on general and competition criteria as below.

It is intended the selection of the Squad will comprise:

- The current Australian Young Rider Champion
- Eligible Young Riders selected on the National Senior,
- Up to 8 riders selected under the Competition Criteria,
- Up to 4 riders selected under the General Criteria.
- Up to an additional 4 riders aged between 21 and 25 under General Criteria.

Selection of Young Riders for National Youth Development Squad

General Criteria

Given that at any stage of the competition criteria, riders may for any reason not be able to participate, each State may nominate additional riders for consideration by the National Jumping Selection.

It is intended that the respective State Jumping Selection Panels will nominate an eligible rider it considers a worthy member of the Squad that for a valid reason, could not meet the competition criteria. The nomination will be provided to the National Office by 20 December and must include contact details and, an outline of performance and participation during the year.

Competition Criteria

A two competition selection series will be conducted in each State between 01 June and 20 December each year, where the young riders will be ranked according to their performance and up to the leading eight (8) riders are nominated to the National Youth Development squad for the following year.

Competition Format

- Each State will be eligible to conduct qualifying competitions.
- The two competitions must be conducted on separate weekends.
- Each competition consists of two (2) rounds
- Both rounds of a competition must be conducted on the same day.
- Each competition will be conducted under the FEI article 273: 3.3 and 4.3 (The first round not against the clock)

Eligibility

- Competitors must be a member of Equestrian Australia and the horse must be registered with Equestrian Australia.
- Riders must be aged between 15 and 20 as at the 1 January of the year of the qualification process. (Riders must be 16 – 21 in the year they will actually be listed on the Youth Development Squad).
- Competitors may participate in any or all competitions in the different States, however the score recorded in the first competition competed in both the first and second rounds will be the score/s to count.
- Competitors may ride more than one horse in the competitions and receive a ranking for each horse.
- All riders start in the first round and all riders are eligible to start in the second round unless they are eliminated or retire.
- Riders who retire or are eliminated in the first competition are eligible to take part in the second competition but cannot obtain an overall ranking.

Arena

- The competitions must be conducted outdoors on an arena surface of either grass or sand.
- The arena for the competitions must be approximately 90 metres by 50 metres.

Courses

- The course plans will be prepared by a course designer chosen by the National Committee from the FEI list of Course Designers. **The 2010 courses will be designed by Peter Cooke – FEI Level III**
- A detailed plan of each course will be prepared with sufficient measurements for an accurate course to be replicated.
- Accompanying each course plan will be a material list with an illustration of the construction of each obstacle and its dimensions.
- The courses must be accurately laid out by a national level three or FEI course designer.
- The first round of each competition will comprise either 11 or 12 obstacles.
- The second round will comprise 8 to 10 obstacles.
- The course for the second round of the competition must be different to the first round. Competitors will walk the second round.
- The courses may be used for other competitions but the Young Rider competition must be the first competition over the courses.

National Youth Development Jumping Squad Selection Criteria

Obstacle Dimensions and Material

- The first round of each competition will have a maximum height of 1.30 metres and a maximum width of 1.50metres. At least two spread obstacles and three vertical obstacles must be set at 1.30 metres.
- The second round of each competition will have a maximum height of 1.35 metres and a maximum width of 1.55 metres. At least two spread obstacles and two vertical obstacles must be set at 1.35 metres.
- Triple bar obstacles will have a maximum width of 1.60 metres in the first round and 1.70 metres in the second round.
- A water jump is not allowed.
- The first round of each competition will contain two combination obstacles.
- The second round of each competition may have one treble combination, or one or two double combination obstacles.
- The first round of each competition must contain a liverpool obstacle and an obstacle with short rails (between 2.4 metres and 2.8metres).

Speed

- The speed for the first round of both competitions will be 350 metres per minute and the second round 375 metres per minute.

Timing

- Electronic Timing equipment capable of measuring to 1/100th of a second must be used.
- All results must show the time taken to 1/100th of a second.

Judge

- The ground jury will comprise a Chairman only.
- The Chairman of the Ground Jury for each competition must be selected from the National level three or FEI list of judges.
- Each state is responsible for appointing the appropriate level judge to officiate at their competitions.
- The Chairman of the Ground Jury will act as Technical Delegate and ensure that as far as possible the course and in particular the length is faithful to the course plan.
- The courses and subsequent competition must be videoed and submitted to the Chair of the National Jumping Selection Panel.

Starting Order

- A random draw for the starting order for the first round of each competition will be conducted by the organizing committee.
- For the second round of each competition the starting order will be in reverse order of penalties. Competitors with the same number of penalties in the first round will maintain their first round order.

Prizes

- Each state branch of EA will be responsible for providing ribbons to fifth place for each competition.
- Prizemoney or other awards may be offered by the organizing committee for each competition.
- The Saddlery Trading Company will again be the National Sponsor providing a package of saddlery products for the winners of each of the ten competitions as well as a prize pack for the overall winner. However Organising Committees are encouraged to establish sponsorship for prizemoney for each competition.

Results and Rankings

- The original copy of the judging sheets must be forwarded to the High Performance Manager at EA National Office no later than 7 days after the completion of the competition. The competition Judge will be responsible for ensuring this report is delivered.
- In each competition competitors will be placed according to the aggregate penalties over both rounds and the time incurred in the second round, as per the competition rules.
- Overall rankings will be determined by adding the penalties from the four rounds..
- Should there be equality of penalties after the four rounds the rider with the lowest time from the second competition final round will be placed highest.
- Once all states have conducted their competitions, results from all of the competitions will be collated; rankings assigned and posted on the EA and State Branch websites.

National Youth Development Jumping Squad Selection Criteria

- Should a rider qualify in the top eight with two or more horses the rider will receive the ranking of their highest placed horse and have the other qualified horses listed against their name. The next ranked rider will be added to the list.