2026

EVENTING



PATHWAY PROGRAM

US EQUESTRIAN

EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAM



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.

Cover & opposite: US Equestrian



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

Achievement of one of the following Competition Results, as defined below:

- Top 5 placing at Badminton Horse Trials CCI5*-L or Burghley Horse Trials CCI5*-L
- Top 3 placing at Kentucky CCI5*-L, Pau CCI5*-L, or Luhmuhlen CCI5*-L
- Finishing on a score ≤ 33 at a CCI5*-L
- Finishing on a score ≤ 32 at a CCI4*-L and a finishing on a score ≤ 30 at a CCI4*-S

Achievement of one of the following:

- Individual Medal at an Olympic Games or World Championships
- Contributing score to a Team Medal at an Olympic Games or FEI World Championships



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

Combinations who meet TWO of the following criteria within a 12-month period, at TWO different competitions, ONE of which must be achieved at a long format:

1. Finish on a score ≤ 40 at a CCI5*-L (including World Championships and Olympic Games)
2. Finish on a score ≤ 34 at a CCI4*-L
3. Finish on a score ≤ 31 at a CCI4*-S

   OR

4. Program Membership recommended by the High Performance Manager and approved by the Director of FEI Sport.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- FEI World Championship, Olympic, or Pan American Game long list preparation, resulting in missing an event that would have produced a Competition Result.
- Individual Medal or contribution to a Team Gold Medal at a Pan American Games.
- Force Majeure.

Photo: Shannon Brinkman; Photo: Libby Law Photography



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 ≤ 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 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.

Photos: Taylor Pence Photography, (opposite) US Equestrian



2026 TARGETED COMPETITIONS FOR U.S. EVENTING

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

FEI Eventing World Championship U25
July 22-26, 2026

FEI Eventing World Championships
August 12-16, 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 USEA/ USEF Developing Horse National Championships & the USEF Eventing 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
Phillip Dutton	Eventing Development Program 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
Christina Vaughn	Director, Eventing Elite Program
Alison Lloyd	Director, Eventing Sport Administration
Julianna Olcott	Sport Programs Specialist