



USEF EVENTING PATHWAY PROGRAMS

Eventing Development 25 Program

2027 Criteria and Benefits

Vision of the Eventing Development 25 Program:

The Eventing Development 25 Program (Dev. 25 Program) aims to identify and support Athletes who are 25 years or younger 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 and/or to be a future U.S. Team Athlete.

The expectation of the Dev. 25 Program is that the Athlete will progress through the Eventing Pathway to the Development Program by the time the Athlete has aged out of U25, or within four (4) years of first being included in the Dev. 25 Program, whichever comes first.

Qualification Criteria for the Eventing Development 25 Program:

Objective Program Criteria:

1. The Athlete must be 25 y/o or younger in 2027, according to the FEI age requirements (born on or after January 1, 2002).
2. The Athlete must apply for the Program by submitting an application via their USEF Athlete Dashboard. Applications close on September 1 and late applications will not be accepted.
3. The Athlete must attend an Assessment Session. Any request exception must be submitted in writing.
 - a. If an Athlete has been a member of the Dev. 25 Program for the preceding two (2) years, the requirement for attending an Assessment Session is waived.
4. Athletes who have achieved an MER at a CCI3*-L in the past two (2) years, as defined in the [FEI Eventing Rules Art. 517](#). Please note that Athletes who have not achieved a CCI3*-L MER are still encouraged to submit an application for the Program, as they may be “talent spotted” for an Assessment Session.

A Minimum Eligibility Requirement is achieved by completing a Competition within minimum parameters of all round performance as follows:

- a) Dressage Test: not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%).
- b) Cross Country test:
 - Cross Country Test: A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible device or having a maximum of one missing flag will maintain the MER result on Cross Country)
 - Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross Country Test for, one, two, three and four star level Competitions and 100 seconds in the case of five star level Competitions.
- c) Jumping test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

Athletes who are 25 or younger (per FEI Regulations) for 2026 and achieve the criteria at a CCI3-L will remain in the Development 25 Program upon Program acceptance. Athletes who have previously competed at an Eventing Olympic Games, FEI Sr. 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 High Performance Staff may “talent spot” Athletes who have not achieved an MER per the objective criteria to participate in the Development 25 Program Assessment Session. The Athlete MUST still submit a Dev.25 Program application to be considered for the 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 Dev. 25 Program, they are not eligible to receive funding for the 2027 European Development Tour. Any withdrawal must be communicated to Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing in writing.

Criteria for Membership Retention in the Development 25 Program:

To maintain Dev. 25 Program membership, Athletes must be annually selected for the Program by submitting an application. Athletes who have attended an Assessment Session and continue to meet the criteria following their fall competition season will receive an invitation to the 2027 Dev. 25 Program. The Athlete must remain in good standing with US Equestrian for the duration of their Program membership.

Training Session dates and locations will be announced.

While in the Dev. 25 Program, Athletes are expected to:

- Participate in 6-month reviews and work with the USEF Eventing High Performance Staff 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 High Performance Staff to create a performance plan that will lead to obtaining the targets and KPIs in the future.
- Communicate with the USEF Eventing High Performance Staff, and the USEF Managing Director, Eventing, 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 and/or achieve long-term goals.

Benefits of the Eventing Development 25 Program:

- Support from the USEF Eventing High Performance Staff 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 FEI Eventing World Championship U25 and receive funding associated with the targeted competitions.





- 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.
- Inclusion in USEF press releases relating to the Eventing Pathway Programs and published on the www.usef.org website.

If you have any questions about the 2027 Development Program, please get in touch with Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing, at abraun@usef.org or +1 (859) 225-6970.