



STATE SQUAD SELECTION

PURPOSE:

The purpose of selecting Dressage South Australia (DSA) Squads is to identify horse/rider combinations that show the best and most consistent performances at high level competition in South Australia. Ideally, these combinations will have potential to be successful at Interstate and National events. This High Performance Pathway will aim to assist talented combinations to further their equestrian development with a view to being selected onto Australian National Squads.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Dressage SA Committee appoint the State Selectors and High Performance Co-Ordinator who act on behalf of the Committee. All squads are ratified by the DSA Committee.

In 2017, three senior squads will be selected, and one youth squad.

The addition of the 'Senior Progression Squad', is designed to assist younger horses or those competing at the lower levels that show talent in dressage, to access the High Performance Pathway earlier in their career.

The DSA Squads in Dressage for 2107 are as follows:

- DSA Senior FEI Squad – for those horses competing at an FEI level – maximum of 8 horse/rider combinations.
- DSA Senior Advancement Squad – for those horses competing at Medium and Advanced levels with the aim of competing at FEI – max of 8 horse/rider combinations.
- DSA Senior Progression Squad: for those horses competing at Novice and Elementary and/or Young Horse classes with the particular aim of competing at Dressage with the Stars and advancing to the higher dressage levels – max of 6 horse/rider combinations.
- Youth Riders Squad (Novice and above) – maximum of 8 horse/rider combinations.

In total, the three senior Squads will have a maximum of 18 horse/rider combinations, but this may vary at the discretion of the Selectors.

Squad selection will be based on fulfilment of general squad criteria including evaluation of performances, both ranking and percentages obtained for the previous 12 months (January to December for the January review/intake), and July to June for the mid-year review/intake. **Note, performances alone will not guarantee Squad Selection.**

Combinations should have the enthusiasm to receive guidance and show aspiration and potential talent for future selection on the Equestrian Australia National High Performance Program.

COMBINATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' APPLICATION FORM TO THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE & SQUAD CO-ORDINATOR TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SELECTION ONTO A SQUAD BY THE NOMINATED CLOSING DATE. This form can be downloaded from the ESA website.

Please note that all squad activities and clinics are self-funded by squad members. High Performance does not receive any funding from ESA or EA to assist with squad activities. There is the expectation that squad members will be required to participate in fundraising activities, as decided by all the members.

Squads will be selected in December and ratified at the January Dressage SA Committee Meeting. A mid-year review and intake (if places are available on squads) will be held in June/July each year. Riders will be notified of their successful selection soon after by email. The new squads will be announced on the ESA website and the Dressage SA Facebook page. Squad badges (and any other squad merchandise/apparel) will be forwarded by mail or personally given to members with a formal letter and athlete agreement to be signed soon afterwards.

Horse and rider combinations will be expected to continually improve their performances over time. Current squad riders will be subjected to a half-yearly performance review and not guaranteed a squad position if they do not meet the selection criteria.

A squad member that no longer meets the criteria to remain on a squad will be notified by email.

Squad selection will be based on the combination of the horse and rider. As such, if the combination is not able to fulfil their squad obligations (for example, if the horse is sold) they will be removed from the squad. If at any time, a horse or rider is unable to continue as a member of a squad, for any reason, the High Performance & Squad Co-Ordinator must be advised in writing. (All correspondence will be confidential). The selectors will then be notified and this allows the position to be filled with another combination. Depending on circumstances, members may be placed on a 'Holding List' until able to resume competition rather than being dropped from the squad completely.

Selectors will be aware of results from all major national and interstate competitions and will take these scores into account when considering squad selection.

Dressage SA reserves the right to review and amend the selection criteria as and when required.

Existing squad members will be personally notified of these changes and they will also be published on the ESA website and in Moving Forward

GENERAL SQUAD CRITERIA:

Combinations are obliged to meet the following criteria to be considered for selection:

- Riders need to be a current competitive member of ESA and their horse registered with the EA and micro-chipped. Horse must have a current performance card.
- Squad selection is from specific rider and horse combinations which have attained four (4) qualifying scores from at least three MAJOR South Australian (Championship) qualifying events during the year. Scores from MINOR qualifying events will also be considered when Selectors are making their final decisions.

- For **Senior FEI Squad** selection, only scores of 62% and over, at FEI level, will be considered.
- For **Senior Advancement Squad** Selection, only scores of 65% and over, at EA Medium/Advanced levels will be considered.
- For **Senior Progression Squad** Selection, only scores of 68% and over, at EA Novice/Elementary levels will be considered, as well as Young Horse Scores of 68% and above will be considered.
- For the **Youth Rider Squad**, only scores of 65% and over in Novice & Elementary and 62% in Medium & Advanced and above will be considered for selection.
Riders can apply from the commencement of the calendar year in which they turn ten years old on ponies and twelve on horses, (as per the EA Rules) and can remain in the squad until the end of the year in which they turn twenty-five.
- Please refer to the Dressage Calendar on the ESA website for qualification event details and information.
- Horses must be sound and fit to satisfy competition standards from the beginning of the squad year.
- Riders are role models for the sport and must conform to the EA Code of Conduct, Social Media Policy and Welfare of the Horse Policy or risk losing their position on a squad.
- Poor sportsmanship and inappropriate behaviour by squad members will not be tolerated. Combinations can be removed from the squads at the discretion of the State Selectors at any time if poor sportsmanship or inappropriate behaviour has been verified. Combinations will be formally notified of this decision and reasons will be outlined. Mentoring will be offered if the situation is appropriate with the aim of re-instatement.
- Any rider that have disciplinary proceedings enforcing a term of suspension will automatically be removed from the squads for the remainder of the year or the term of suspension.
- Squad members will be required to sign an athlete agreement, and squad horse owners will be required to sign a horse owner agreement, and abide by the criteria outlined therein.

Fulfilment of selection criteria does not automatically guarantee selection.

Selectors may use the following considerations to make their final squad selections and if necessary, will source information from and consult with a range of suitable personnel with the appropriate expertise and knowledge:

- The level the combination competed in the qualifying year and the previous year;
- Whether the horse has moved up a level;
- Percentage improvement over the qualifying year;
- Age of the horse; and
- The 'team player' focus of the rider.

Selection is made at entirely the discretion of the selectors.

WILD CARD ENTRY:

Under certain circumstances, the selectors at their discretion, may offer a wild card to a combination to join the relevant squad. This combination may, or may not have fulfilled the performance requirements to be selected onto a squad, for example, a new combination may have competed in a limited number of events at an exceptional standard.

The wild card can be offered over and above the stipulated number of squad combinations or can be used if there are not enough qualifying combinations to fill the squad.

Riders wanting to be considered as a wild card are still required to complete the Expression of Interest form.

A maximum of 1 wild card (per squad) can be offered at each squad intake.

The Selectors' decisions are final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into. However, any wild card entry must be ratified by the Dressage SA Committee at its earliest possible convenience.

BEING A SQUAD MEMBER:

- The Dressage SA Committee believes that it is an honour for a rider to be recognised and selected onto a squad and should be supported and rewarded accordingly.
- The senior riders will particularly be seen as role models to younger riders and their behaviour and adherence to the EA Code of Conduct must reflect this.
- They will be asked to attend Judges Clinics as demonstration rider/horse combinations from time to time.
- Riders will be given state squad badges appropriate to the year of selection to be sewn on to their riding jackets
- The committee will offer or supply subsidized team merchandise and apparel as appropriate.
- Squad riders will be invited to attend training clinics and/or workshops conducted by DSA as opportunities arise. They will also be offered opportunities, as they become available, for guidance from the EA National Squad program.

For any queries and information please contact:

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DRESSAGE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA