



## 2019 YOUNG RIDER 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 Working Party (DSAWP) appoints the Squad Co-Ordinator and State Selectors who act on behalf of the Working Party. All squads are ratified by the DSAWP. One Young Rider squad will be selected:

- DSA Young Rider High Performance Squad – For those horses competing Preliminary to FEI level – Open number of horse/riders combinations.

In total, the Young Rider Squad will have a maximum of 8 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 period from Jan 2018 to close of applications **19<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. (Due to DSAWP circumstances) **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 applications via Nominate <https://www.nominate.com.au/EquestDn/Event.aspx?event=15043&eventlist=2> to be considered for selection onto the squad by the nominated closing date **19<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. Please note that some squad activities and clinics are self-funded by squad members, however, ESA and EA do receive High Performance Grants for some off horse programs throughout the year.

Squads will be reviewed regularly throughout the year to ensure current riders are still meeting criteria.

Riders will be notified of their successful selection by email.

The squads will be announced on the ESA website and the Dressage SA Facebook page. Horse and rider combinations will be expected to continually improve their performances over time.

Young Rider Squad selection will be based on the combination of the horse and rider; however, exceptions will be made for young riders changing horses/ponies as their riding skills and level progress. If at any time, a horse or rider is unable to continue as a member of a squad, for any reason, the Squad Co-Ordinator must be advised (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.

### **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.
- Young Rider horses need to be registered with the EA and micro-chipped. Horses must have a current performance cards.
- Squad selection is from specific rider and horse combinations which have attained four (4) qualifying scores from at least two MAJOR South Australian events eg: championships during the year. Scores from other competitive events will also be considered when Selectors are making their final decisions.
- Young Riders competing Preliminary to Elementary, only scores of 65% and over, will be considered.
- Young Riders competing Medium to FEI, only scores of 62% and over, will be considered.
- Horses must be sound and fit to satisfy competition standards.
- Young Riders are from ages 8 (on ponies) to riders of 21 years of age.
- 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 has disciplinary proceedings enforcing a term of suspension will automatically be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year or the term of suspension.
- 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 during the year and the previous year
  - Whether the horse has moved up a level
  - Percentage improvement over the year
  - 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 Application form.

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

## **BEING A SQUAD MEMBER:**

- The DSAWP believes that it is an honour for a rider to be recognised and selected onto a squad and should be supported accordingly.
- Young Riders will receive Squad Badges to go on saddle blankets and competition jackets.
- The Young Riders will particularly be seen as role models to their peers 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.
- Squad riders will be invited to attend training clinics and/or workshops conducted by DSAWP.
- They will also be offered opportunities, as they become available, for guidance from the EA National Squad program.

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

### **Squad Co-ordinator:**

Mary Nitschke

### **State Selectors:**

Wendy Hunt

Liz Duncan

For any queries and information please contact: [dressage@equestriansa.co.au](mailto:dressage@equestriansa.co.au)