

DRESSAGE SA SQUAD CRITERIA 2026



PURPOSE

Dressage South Australia (DSA) is committed to encouraging, training and developing combinations through the levels towards SA's High Performance Squad and National competitions.

The purpose of the "DSA Futures Squad" is to recognise talented combinations within the different categories of DSA riders and develop them. DSA's aim is to encourage dressage riders to reach their highest potential as they strive for improved performance and better outcomes through training.

The purpose of the "DSA High Performance Squad" is to recognise the horse and rider combinations that display exceptional and consistent performances at high level competitions in South Australia. These horse/rider combinations are expected to represent South Australia at interstate and national events and serve as inspiring role models for the sport.

BEING PART OF A TEAM

The focus of the squad is on commitment to being part of the team and embracing all the activities and opportunities provided. As a team, we are stronger together, and we're committed to working collaboratively and supporting each other. We want to show an example to the sport at large by demonstrating the importance of respect and cohesiveness towards the common goal of becoming the best riders and individuals we can be.

The squad members will have priority access to high-performance on and off-horse training programs. It is expected that these riders will represent SA at Interstate and National Championship events whenever possible.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Riders need to be a current competitive member of ESA.
2. Para Equestrians must be EA or FEI classified.
3. Owners need to be current members of EA.
4. Horses must be registered with the EA, micro-chipped and have a current competition license.
5. Horses must be sound and fit to satisfy competition standards from the beginning of the squad year.
6. Riders must comply with the current Dressage Rules.

QUALIFICATIONS

	LEVEL	MIN %	FIRST SCORE	SECOND SCORE	THIRD SCORE
DSA Futures Squad 14 positions	Novice	68%	HOTY SHOW	HOTY SHOW	SA Competitive Test
	Elementary	66%			
	Medium	65%			
	Advanced	63%			
DSA High Performance Squad 12 positions	Small Tour	63%	HOTY SHOW	HOTY SHOW or Interstate CDN or CDI Competition	SA Competitive Test
	Medium Tour	62%			
	Big Tour	61%			

ALL 3 scores to be submitted. Each score needs to have been from tests with no less than 2 judges from the 12-months prior to application closing date.

SQUAD COMBINATION SELECTION

If the number of applications exceeds the available spots, the selectors will use an average of the 3 submitted percentages to determine the successful combinations, highest average being selected.

If there are more applicants than places when comparing scores across levels, the scores will be weighted to provide an equal playing field.

DSA FUTURES SQUAD - 14 Positions

Categories Eligible

- AOR
- OPEN EA (NON AOR)
- PONY

Minimum 2 representatives in each category with the next highest performed combinations from any category making up the remaining 14 available positions.

- Novice – No weighting
- Elementary +2%
- Medium +4%
- Advanced +6%

If there are not enough applicants who meet the qualifying scores, then some spaces will remain vacant

DSA HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUAD - 12 positions

- Small Tour – No weighting
- Medium Tour +2%
- Big Tour +3%

Should there be excess combinations apply there will be 2x Medium Tour, 2x Big Tour place
Minimum % to qualify for each submitted test

If there are not enough applicants who meet the qualifying scores, then some spaces will remain vacant

SQUAD MEMBER BENEFITS

- will have express entry to on and off-horse training programs
- successful squad applicants will be listed in Moving Forward and on the DSA Facebook page and website.
- will be provided with a squad saddle cloth badge and jacket pin
- may be asked to be demonstration riders for judges' clinic and master classes
- will have access to presale tickets to attend master classes as a spectator before opening to the general public
- will have the opportunity to attend judges update sessions

SQUAD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteer Requirements

- Must volunteer at a minimum of ONE South Australian Dressage Club event (Competitive or CUR/Participation) or be an active member of a South Australian Dressage Club Committee or State Dressage Committee
- Minimum attendance at ONE South Australian judge's seminar theory session as an observer or rider each year

Conduct Requirements

- Riders must comply with the current Dressage Rules
- 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
- Poor sportsmanship and inappropriate behaviour by squad members will not be tolerated. Combinations can be removed from the Squad at the discretion of the DSA Committee at any time if poor sportsmanship or inappropriate behaviour has been verified. Combinations will be formally notified of the 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 against them enforcing a term of suspension will automatically be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year
- If at any time a horse and/or rider become unavailable due to injury or illness for a period in excessive of 6 months, or the horse is sold, DSA must be advised in writing and they will no longer be part of the squad

- At the time of the mid-year review if the competitor has not competed at an EA official competition in the previous 6 months on their selected squad horse, they will no longer be part of the squad
- Where a selected horse is unavailable to attend a clinic due to injury, riders may make a request to DSA to substitute another horse, each application will be considered on merit
- Riders may be included on the Squad on more than one horse (subject to the combinations meeting the criteria) but may only register one horse for clinics that are run, unless additional places are available and the organisers choose to offer places to riders with a second Squad horse
- 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
- The young riders will be seen as role models to their peers and their behaviour and adherence to the EA Code of Conduct must reflect this
- Riders may be asked to attend DSA events or Judges Clinics as demonstration rider/horse combinations from time to time
- Riders may be invited to attend user pays training clinics and/or workshops conducted by DSA/DJSC and should make every effort to attend
- Applications will be open on Nominate with the Squad announced once the selectors have reviewed the applications. Ratified decisions are final
- DSA reserves the right to review and amend the selection criteria and Squad numbers, as and when, required.