



## Benchmarking & Markers

In order to encourage talent development and identify achievement, it is necessary to have a way to evaluate athletes against a set of standards. Using Benchmarking and specifying Markers defines expectations that help riders set both broad and specific targets for their development.

### *What is Benchmarking?*

Benchmarking is the continuous process of measuring an athlete's progress and performance against their peers. For this process, the fence heights and competitions listed below set achievement levels for each age group.

For an athlete, understanding Benchmarking provides **broad goals** for personal development.

**Example:** *A 13 year old rider looking to track with their peers might set a goal of moving up to compete in Junior Jumper classes set a 1.20m or higher.*

### *What are Markers?*

Markers are the capstones to the competitions used in Benchmarking. Markers typically require qualification or selection as the result of successful performance in these competitions.

Markers help an athlete set **specific goals**.

**Example:** *Being selected to compete at the FEI North American Children's Championship (NACHC) would be a marker for a 13 year old rider competing in 1.20m classes.*

Age Ranges	Benchmarking Fence Heights	Benchmarking Competitions	Marker Competitions
<b>Child Riders</b> (12 - 14)	1.20m - 1.25m	Talent Search 1*/2*/3* USEF Junior Jumpers	Talent Search Finals CSIOCh NACHC
<b>Junior Riders</b> (14 - 18)	1.30m - 1.40m	Talent Search 1*/2*/3* USEF Junior Jumpers Regional Grand Prix National Grand Prix	Talent Search Finals Junior Jumper Championship NAJYRC CSIOJ
<b>Young Riders</b> (16 - 21)	1.40m - 1.50m	USEF Junior Jumpers U25 Competitions National Grand Prix	NAJYRC FEI Competitions CSIOYR
<b>U25 Riders</b> (16 - 25)	1.40m - 1.50m	U25 Competitions National Grand Prix FEI Competitions	U25 National Championship CSI3* - CSI5* CSI03* - CSI04*