



2023 USEF Eventing Development Athlete Program

Objective: The Development Athlete Program aims to support athletes with the perceived talent and ability to reach Elite status within the next two to three years by focusing on developing the skills needed to progress up the Pathway.

Target: Goal of reaching Elite status within two-three years with a maximum of four years in the Development Program.

Review/Term: Athletes having met the criteria will be invited to the Program in December of each year. Athletes must partake in a required January Training Session in order to partake in the Program. Athletes are reviewed annually for participation in the Program.

Criteria for Selection to the Development Athlete Program

- Athlete/horse combinations must obtain one of the following results within the previous 12 months:
 - CCI5*-L
 - **Finishing Score <= 40**
 - CCI4*-L
 - **Finishing Score <= 36**
 - CCI3*-L
 - **Finishing Score <= 33 with zero cross country time penalties**
- Commitment to learning, sports science medicine, business development and personal development.
- The Development Coach may recommend, with support the USEF Eventing Technical Advisor, additional athlete/horse combinations to be invited to participate in the Development Program that have not met the program criteria.
- Athletes will be required to submit 2023 training and competition plans for review within thirty days of being included on the Development Program.
- Athletes must be a Member of the USEF in good standing.
- Athletes cannot have previously participated on an Eventing Olympic Games, World Championship or Pan American Games team.
- Athletes that are of the FEI age 25 or under, for 2023, and achieved the criteria at a CCI3*-L will remain in the Emerging Athlete Program.





Criteria for Retention on the Development Athlete Program

- Athletes that are based in the U.S. will be required to participate in a 4-day training session in Ocala, Florida January 30-February 2. The training session will incorporate the Human and Equine Sports Science program, as well as mounted training with the Development Coach, Leslie Law.
- Participate in 6 monthly Review process and agree on targets and KPIs.
- Meet targets and KPIs or agree reasons for not meeting the targets and KPIs
- Communicate with the Development Coach
- Maintain horse power, at least capable of, achieving the Criteria for Selection
- Plan for horse power to match necessary pathway progression and long-term goals.
- Remain a Member of USEF in good standing.

Benefits of the Development Athlete Program

- Opportunity to participate in USEF Training Sessions/Clinics/Coaching Sessions.
- One-on-One Coaching/Home Visits, as schedule allows
- Access to USEF Human and Equine Sports Science Medicine Education Programs and resources when available, appropriate and as funding allows.
- Assistance in transition to the next level (training, strategic planning, setting competition and training targets, data analysis, etc.).
- Included on USEF Eventing Development Program published on www.usef.org.

Thank you,
Christina Vaughn
Director, Eventing Emerging and Development Programs

