

Athlete Criteria

1. Athlete must be an Ontario resident and, if under the age of 18, registered full time (or full time equivalent approved by the athlete's school);
2. Athlete must possess or be eligible to receive a valid Canadian passport;
3. Athletes, parents and coach must be willing to sign the GRIT Code of Conduct and Program Waiver;
4. Athletes riding a leased or sponsored horse must have the approval of the owner to participate in the GRIT program, including travel to qualifying competitions and training events as will be determined through the program year;
5. Must be between 11 and 30 years of age and have had at least 3 competition results at the Gold level in one or more of the 3 Olympic Disciplines as follows:

****Note – Age determined as of January 1 of the current year***

- i. Group 1: 11 to 15 years (not required to specialize)
- ii. Group 2: 16 – 18
 - i. Dressage – Level 1 or 2 – 3 competitions results 65% or higher
 - ii. Jumper – 1.1M to 1.2M – 3 placings within top 10 in U25, FEI or Open competitions with not more than 8 jumping faults and 4 time faults
 - iii. Eventing – EC Training, EC 1.05M or Preliminary Level – 3 placings within top 10 (with MER* as defined by FEI)

- iii. Group 3: 18 – 20 years
 - i. Dressage – Level 2 or 3 - 3 competition results 65% or higher
 - ii. Jumper – 1.2 to 1.3M – 3 placings within top 8 in U25, FEI or Open competitions with not more than 8 jumping faults and 4 time faults
 - iii. Eventing – EC Preliminary level or FEI CCI* or above – 3 placings within top 10 (with MER* as defined by FEI)
- iv. Group 4: 21 – 25 years
 - i. Dressage – FEI & U25 Open Div.
 - ii. Jumper – FEI 1.3M or higher & U25
 - iii. Eventing – FEI CCI 2*L or higher (with MER* as defined by FEI)
- v. Group 5: 25 to 30 years
 - i. Dressage – FEI
 - ii. Jumper – FEI 1.3M or higher
 - iii. Eventing – FEI CCI 2*L or higher (with MER* as defined by FEI)

Note:

MER –

FEI Eventing Article 517 Minimum Eligibility Requirement

A minimum eligibility requirement is achieved by completing a competition within minimum parameters of all-round performance as follows:

- A) Dressage Test: not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%)
- B) Cross Country Test: A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible device will maintain the Mer result on Cross Country). Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the cross-country test for two, three and four star level competitions and 100 seconds in the case of five star level competitions.
- C) Jumping Test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles

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- 6. Must ride with a Certified Coach, Coach holding a current International Trainers Passport or Coach who is a candidate for Coach Certification. (*Note – the rider’s coach must also obtain a coach license within 3 months of the program becoming available);

7. Must be willing to participate in program training including:
 - a. Canadian Sport Institute of Toronto (CSIO – Pan Am Centre) Athlete Training sessions;
 - b. Cross Discipline Training Camps – schedule to be announced upon release of the Equestrian Canada 2020 Gold Competition Schedule;
 - c. One-on-one training sessions with the GRIT Head Coach, the athlete and the athlete’s coach; and
 - d. Unmounted in-class or online education sessions:
 - i. Developing a Yearly Training and Competition Plan
 - ii. Developing and Training young horses
 - iii. Nutrition
 - iv. Mental Preparation for Training and Competition
 - v. Strength and Conditioning
 - e. Additional training and education offerings for Parents & Coaches will be available and encouraged

Note – individual GRIT training programs will be developed for each athlete

8. Athletes must wear GRIT athlete apparel during training and competition events;
9. Athletes must submit monthly competition updates to the OE Director of Sport, within 2 weeks of the end of each month, including:
 - i. The name, location and date of competition
 - ii. A description of the competition class
 - iii. The number of entries
 - iv. The number of finishes
 - v. The athletes placing and points on each round/phase/class
 - vi. Details of any injuries that may have been sustained by the rider or horse during the competition

10. Any athlete and/or horse who is unable to participate fully in the program due to injury must report the circumstances to the GRIT Head Coach to determine whether the athlete's training program (including unmounted training) can be modified or whether the athlete will withdraw from the program;

11. All horses and athletes participating in the program may be subject to randomized drug testing, per Equestrian Canada guidelines. Any failed drug test will result in removal from the program.

12. The athlete will be required to pay the majority of their expenses associated with GRIT program participation, with the exception of:

- i. Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario (CSIO) team training events;
- ii. Entry fees for training camps (mounted and unmounted)
- iii. Any coaching or admin fees relating to support received from the GRIT head coach or the OE

Note: OE will not guarantee but will seek sponsorships to offset team and event costs where possible.