



Looking to Spain 2026

INTERNATIONAL TEAM DEVELOPMENT

QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT



WE CAN
WORKING EQUITATION CANADA
ÉQUITATION DE TRAVAIL CANADA



Working Equitation Canada
International Team Athlete Qualification and Nomination Criteria
June 2024

Prepared by: WECan International Team Development Committee ('WECan ITD' or 'ITD')

The purpose of this document is to set out the Qualification and Nomination Criteria that will be used by Working Equitation Canada (WECan) to nominate athlete or athlete/horse combinations to compete at WAVE Championship events, and/or other International Working Equitation Events in which WECan has been requested to send National Representatives.

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. The purpose of this document is to set out the Qualification and Nomination Criteria that will be used by WECan to nominate athlete or athlete/horse combinations to compete at WAVE Championship events; whether it be World Championships, Junior World Championships, or other applicable WAVE events. As future events requiring team qualification are identified, this document may be amended to better suit the needs of our athletes and WECan representatives.
- b. Athletes, or athlete/horse combinations must meet the expectations as outlined in this document in order to be considered for nomination.
- c. The International Team Development Committee (ITD), acting on behalf of WECan, will be the governing body for the nomination and selection of International Team riders to represent Canada in international Working Equitation competitions.
- d. Athletes who choose to participate in the nomination process acknowledge, by their participation and declaration, that meeting the qualification criteria outlined in these Nomination Criteria does not guarantee that an athlete will be selected.
- e. It is vitally important for the integrity of the nomination process that athletes, grooms, owners, coaches, team support personnel and any parties involved in the nomination process, practice at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on nomination, and/or any nomination decisions. All confidential information, conversations, and discussions will be identified as such. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the nomination process.
- f. The nomination criteria and procedures for Working Equitation Canada International Team Selections will be communicated by Working Equitation Canada (WECan) official publications, posted on the WECan website, and be distributed by email to those athletes who have completed the event-specific "WECan International Team Athlete Declaration of Intent Form" (Rider Declaration).
- g. If there is a difference in interpretation between the French and English versions of this document, then the English version shall prevail.
- h. WECan is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected or stolen correspondence directed to WECan, whether submitted online, electronically, via a postal service, commercially shipped, voice activated or in any other manner.
- i. Any intentional misrepresentation of information submitted for nomination consideration may, at the sole discretion of WECan, eliminate the athlete from both the qualifying process and from further consideration for nomination.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a. To be eligible for nomination consideration for WECan Team at WAVE Championship events, the following minimum eligibility requirements listed in this section must be met
- b. Athlete
 - i. Be a Canadian Citizen
 - ii. Hold a valid Canadian passport for at least 6 months prior to a championship event and it must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date of expected return home.
 - iii. Sign, submit, and comply with the WECan Athlete Code of Conduct at the time of Rider Declaration
 - iv. Hold a current WECan membership and be a member in good standing. This must be maintained every year leading up to and including championship events
 - v. Meet minimum rider age requirements
 - 1. Open – 21 and over years of age
 - 2. Junior (under 18 years of age) and Young Riders (under 21 years of age)
- c. Horse
 - i. Meet requirements as laid out in WAVE and WECan rules for appropriate level
 - ii. Be in compliance with vaccination requirements and certification policies of WECan, WAVE, or show organizing committees
 - iii. Must be recorded with WECan prior to declaration being submitted
- d. Groom
 - i. Must be a minimum of 18 years of age as of January 1st in the year of championships event
 - ii. Hold a valid Canadian passport for at least 6 months prior to a championship event and it must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date of expected return home.
 - iii. Sign, submit, and comply with the WECan Code of Conduct
- e. Owner
 - i. Hold a valid WECan membership and be a member in good standing
 - ii. Hold a valid Canadian passport for at least 6 months prior to a championship event and it must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date of expected return home. (if owner plans to travel to the event)
 - iii. Sign, Submit, and comply with WECan Code of Conduct
- f. Support Team Members
 - i. Hold a valid Canadian passport for at least 6 months prior to a championship event and it must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date of expected return home.
 - ii. Sign, submit, and comply with the WECan Code of Conduct

3. DECLARATION AND ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES

- a. Declaration Submission Date: Declarations for championship events must be submitted by **18 months prior the championship show date**, (or according to the submission time and date set by the WECan ITD). Declarations may be submitted prior to this date. Declaration dates will be published on WECan newsletter and Social Media. Upcoming

events will be publicized on the WECan website and social media and will be clearly indicated on the 'WECan International Team Athlete Declaration of Intent Form'.

- b. Late Submissions: Rider Declaration forms that have not been submitted by the stated deadline (time and date) will not be eligible for consideration. **No late declarations will be accepted.**
- c. Purpose: The Rider Declaration submission date allows sufficient time for the accreditation process to be completed and the Selection Committee to assess and select the team athletes.
- d. Process: WECan International Team Athlete Declaration of Intent Forms (Rider Declaration) will be submitted via email to info@workingeq.ca
- e. At the time of declaration, the athlete will provide the following information:
 - i. Horse Information : Name, WECan recording number
 - ii. Groom(s): Name, WECan membership number, email address, phone number and signed WE Can Code of Conduct. Riders can declare up to three grooms per event
 - iii. Owner(s): Name, WECan membership number, email address, phone number, signed WECan Code of Conduct
 - iv. Athlete's WECan membership number, email address, phone number and signed WECan Code of Conduct
 - v. Athlete CV should include the following pertinent information: (see Appendix XX for a template)
 - 1. WECan Licensed Show Attendance/Results Record (or other licensed WE competitions outside of Canada) from the last 3 years
 - 2. WECan International Team Development Seminar Attendance Record
 - 3. Additional relevant Working Equitation knowledge/experience (i.e., judging, coaching, organizing competitions, WE community support and/or volunteering at WECan events),
 - vi. Athlete Development Plan describing planned training and competition activities for 18 months leading up to the event
- f. Withdrawal: Declared athletes who subsequently choose to withdraw from the nomination process prior to naming of the team and alternates must advise the WECan ITD of their decision in writing.

4. NOMINATION PROCESS

- a. Nomination Panel: The ITDC will be the recipient of the Rider Declarations. The Selection committee for the International Team will be struck separately. The selection committee may reach out to international officials, athletes, or coaches to request support for selecting team members. Any member of the Selection Committee who considers that they are in a position of perceived or real conflict of interest, must declare such a conflict before any discussions are held or decisions are made, and must remove themselves from any meetings until the matter giving rise to the perceived or real conflict of interest has been resolved by the Selection Committee.
- b. Specific Responsibilities:
 - i. The general purpose of the ITDC is to provide input and feedback into to the development of the International Team strategy, policies, and programming.

- ii. The Selection Committee will oversee the nomination of Canadian athletes and athlete/horse combinations to represent Canada in international competition.
 - iii. Monitor WECan show results for declared athletes
 - iv. Develop a mechanism for ensuring that the assessment of nominated athletes is represented in the selection and decision-making process
 - v. Manage appeals and disciplinary actions related to high performance activities, including team nominations
 - vi. Review athlete development through objective assessment tools
- c. Team Selection: Athletes or athlete/horse combinations will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - i. Obtaining announced qualifying standards
 - ii. Aptitude for high level international sport performance
 - iii. Knowledge of the sport of Working Equitation
 - iv. Assesses potential for success in partnering with a borrowed horse internationally
 - v. Coachability and rider assessments at team development events
 - vi. Capacity to operate within a collaborative and supportive team environment
 - vii. Professionalism and trustworthiness as an ambassador of WECan while competing and appearing at international events

5. **APPEALS**

- a. Grounds: Athletes participating in the nomination process for International Team for WAVE International events have the right to appeal a nomination decision, but only on the grounds that the WECan Selection Committee has failed to comply with the procedures outlined in the Nomination Criteria or have made a patently unreasonable decision based on the Nomination Criteria. An appeal **must be made in writing** to the WECan Conflict resolution committee within 72 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the decision. Appeals must be accompanied by an administration fee of \$500.00 CAD. Conflict resolution committee information can be found at the following link: <https://www.workingeq.ca/copy-of-chapters>

6. **AMENDMENTS TO THE NOMINATION CRITERIA**

- a. The nomination criteria are procedures based on applicable WECan and WAVE regulations, conditions, and restrictions currently known and understood on the latest information available to WECan. Any changes in the Nomination Criteria and procedures necessitated by the change of WECan or WAVE regulations will be distributed via email to the affected athletes as soon as reasonably possible. Should such a circumstance occur, WECan will review and may amend the Nomination Criteria to comply with new regulations or conditions. Any amendment to this document will be communicated directly to all affected persons (declared athletes) via email. Communication will be sent to the email address provided in the "WECan Team Development Athlete Declaration of Intent Form" (Rider Declaration) submitted by the athletes.

7. TEAM COMPOSITION

- a. Team Nomination: WECan plans to nominate one team of three to four athletes, or athlete/horse combinations to compete at specified WAWE/Championship events. In announcing the final nomination for the team, where appropriate and indicated in the nomination criteria, WECan will also announce up to two alternate athletes who may be called to replace an athlete who is unable to compete for any reason. These athletes' information will be released at the same time as the official team announcement is made.
- b. Individual Nominations: If there is an opportunity for a rider to be nominated as an individual competitor, there will be a separate qualification document and process. This will only be possible if WAWE deems it acceptable for a nation to send individual qualified riders.
- c. Performance Objective: The performance objective for the Working Equitation Canada Team is to represent Canada at the highest level of Sport and to help further the sport in our country by having athletes who can compete at the highest level on the international stage.

8. QUALIFICATION

- a. Qualification Period: Riders have the chance to be qualified for the next championship, in the period between the end of the last championship until the stated deadline.
- b. Qualification Process: Qualification of athlete or athlete/horse combinations will consist of a **FIVE** stage process
 - i. STAGE ONE - WECan Declaration
 - 1. Athlete must have submitted the "WECan International Team Athlete Declaration of Intent Form" (Rider Declaration). With all relevant information by a pre-selected deadline (18 months prior to Championship Event or a date deemed suitable by the ITD) with a non-refundable \$200.00 application fee. This deposit will be used to help fund officials and presenters coming to Canada to select the team.
 - ii. STAGE TWO – Confirmation of attendance of at least one WECan International Team Development Seminar
 - 1. Athletes must attend at least one WECan International Team Development Seminar within 24 months leading up to the specified Championship event.
 - 2. Declared athletes will be given priority placement in Team Development seminars, in order to meet the requirements described in this document.
 - 3. Seminar **MUST** be a WECan International Team Development Seminar
 - a. International riders- For riders holding Canadian citizenship but residing overseas, the same qualification requirements will remain in place. Athletes will be required to participate in Team Development Seminars. In-person attendance is preferred, but athletes may be allowed to attend seminars virtually (for the same cost as in-person riders). Virtual attendance at Team

Development events is available only to international riders and must have prior approval from the ITDC.

iii. STAGE THREE - Qualification Score Requirements

- 1.** Qualifying scores must be attained with the horse they are competing normally.
- 2.** A rider is required to receive from one WAVE judge, at the same event:
 - for 2024 only, a score of 60.1% or higher in dressage, a score of 60.1% or higher in Ease of Handling, and successful completion of the Speed Phase in Level 6 (Advanced) or Level 7 (Masters) or international equivalent level (e.g., Consagrados or Masters).
 - effective 2025: a score of 62.1% or higher in dressage, a score of 62.1% or higher in Ease of Handling, and successful completion of the Speed Phase in Level 6 (Advanced) or Level 7 (Masters) or international equivalent level (e.g., Consagrados or Masters).
- 3.** Per WAVE: Riders have the chance to be qualified for the next championship, in the period between the end of the last championship until the stated deadline.
- 4.** The qualifying scores must be achieved at an Official WAVE Qualifier Competition. Every effort will be made to offer opportunities in as many provinces as possible but cannot be guaranteed. International riders must have their selected show(s) pre-approved by Working Equitation Canada in writing prior to submitting scores.

iv. STAGE FOUR - Training sessions with Team Coach or Coaches: Declared athletes are required, at their own expense, to complete virtual, or in-person training sessions with the selected/recommended team coaches at an interval of a minimum of once per month. Every effort will be made by WECan to make the timing and availability as reasonable as possible. It is recommended that riders purchase a video system in order to take part in virtual training sessions. It is the responsibility of the riders to coordinate scheduling of their virtual training sessions with the Coach.

- v. STAGE FIVE - Team Meetings:** Declared athletes are required to participate in scheduled Team Meetings via videoconference, as soon as the declaration window has closed. Riders may be excused from attending a meeting to a maximum of two meetings with prior approval from the ITD.
- 1.** Efforts will be made to schedule Team Meetings in a manner that accommodates the various time zones where the nominated riders reside (to the extent practical).

9. SUBSTITUTIONS

- a.** Should the need arise prior to the start of Championship events, team member substitutions shall be made, as per WECan and the ITD, in accordance with this document. All substitution decisions will be communicated by email. Reasons for substitution may include: athlete illness or injury, horse illness or injury, or inability to fulfill requirements after nomination. .

10. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. The ITD will confidentially inform the WECan Board of Directors of the athletes or athlete/horse combinations chosen for the Working Equitation Canada Team (including alternates), at least three months prior to the WAVE Championship event.
- b. The ITD will inform all athletes regarding the status of their selection via email three months prior to the WAVE Championship event. This information will be considered confidential until the official WECan announcement is made.
- c. Non-Disclosure Policy-It is important that ALL athletes, whether nominated or not, as well as team members affiliated with an athlete (groom, owner, team personnel) respect this Non-Disclosure Policy regarding team selection announcements until after the official announcement of the team by the ITD.

Until the official WECan team announcement, athletes and their affiliates (owners, grooms, companions, team personnel, and anyone else affiliated with a nominated athlete, including friends, and family) are to refrain from confirming team nomination to any and all media, and must not make any references that confirms team nominations on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.). The purpose of this non-disclosure policy is to ensure maximum impact and exposure for the announcement of the athletes who will represent Canada. Violation of this non-disclosure policy may result in sanctions, up to and including exclusion from nomination.

- d. The ITD will officially announce the nominated athlete/horse via website and social media **after** all riders have been individually notified of their selection status.
- e. The date of the official announcement will be provided to the athletes when they are notified in writing of their selection status. There will be no mention of the nominations to the media or public until the official announcement has been made by the ITD.

11. REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET AFTER TEAM SELECTION

- a. Once an athlete is selected to the team, they must continue to meet all requirements outlined in this document, such as mandatory attendance at Team Meetings and participation in lessons with team coaches. Failure to do so may result in athletes being removed from the team list and an alternate athlete, or a substitution to take place (at the discretion of the ITD).