



Young Prospects Program Rules Handbook

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AHTA Young Prospects Program Mission Statement & Purpose

- To identify and track young event horse talent in Alberta.
- To provide an education stream for producers, breeders and trainers in the development and exposure of young event prospects in Alberta.
- To provide an avenue for breeders in Alberta to connect with riders who can develop and produce young event horses.
- To provide a venue for the general public to see young event prospects as they come up through the program.

The evaluators will be looking for horses with strong abilities and potential in dressage, with correct and elastic gaits. They will also be watching for the horses that possess scope and athleticism over fences. With talent and ability in mind, they will also be assessing the speed & stamina as well as the physical attributes required for the soundness and longevity required to compete at the upper levels of the sport of Eventing.

Qualifications

The program is available to all sport horse types that would be suitable and could excel in the sport of Eventing. This would include but would not be limited to OTTB's, warmblood crosses, thoroughbred and thoroughbred crosses or any breed-type that shows enough blood to compete in the sport of Eventing.

Age Categories

Young Prospects are nominated for the Age Category of their current year. For example, if your young horse turns 4 in the spring or summer of this year, they would be presented as a 4 year old at the evaluation this year.

Classes

2 & 3 Year Old Classes

Young Prospects in their 2 & 3 year old years will be presented in hand only, on the triangle, to assess type, conformation and movement.

4 & 5 Year Old Classes

Young Prospects in their 4 & 5 year old years will be shown on the triangle to assess type, conformation and movement, as well as under saddle in a 20 x 60m dressage arena to assess dressage potential. Then over fences to assess rideability, movement, form over fences and gallop. This is conducted over a derby style course of both cross country and stadium fences, at a height appropriate for their age category.

New Prospects Class

New Prospects are horses older than 5 being presented as older individuals in their own class. This could include OTTB's that have had successful racing careers and show the quality and aptitude for eventing as a new career, or in the case of some mares that had early motherhood options and are now entering into a career as a competition horse. New Prospects must be green to the sport of eventing, and must show exceptional talent for the sport, as well as sound attributes for remaining in the sport. They will perform the 4 year old dressage test and the 4 year old jumping test.

Evaluation Panel

The evaluation panel is to consist of three panel members. For the dressage phase, a minimum of one EC or USEF dressage judge may be used. For the jumping phase, a minimum of one FEI level rider or similar credentials, or EC or national equivalent. An Eventing official should be present on the panel. One summarized score sheet to be submitted per prospect by the panel. No rider, owner or handler may approach the panel at any time during the evaluation. Queries may be addressed to the organizer.

Organizer

The organizer is responsible for acceptance of nominations, delegation of the evaluation panel, planning of the schedule and arranging the scoring committee.

The organizer may nominate/present a Young Prospect(s) at their own evaluation so long as they have appointed an assistant organizer to stand in to take responsibility of the evaluation whilst the organizer is competing.

Emergency Action Plan

As an Alberta Horse Trials sanctioned event, it is required that the evaluation provides full Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Mobile Service onsite for the jumping phase of the evaluation.

AHTA Young Prospects Program Format

Dressage Phase

Horses will be required to perform a dressage test specifically designed for the Young Prospect Program. It will be evaluated on overall collective impression, not by each individual movement. The horse will be scored on the walk, trot, and canter, as well as rideability. The dressage court should be 20 x 60m as the recommended size. Horses leaving the arena will not be eliminated, but will receive a reduced mark for rideability. Playfulness and exuberance will not be penalized as these are green horses often experiencing their first away outing.

Conformation Phase

Will be conducted on a triangle on level ground with either grass or sand footing. The triangle can be of simple construction with its parameters clearly marked with jump rails lying on the ground or dressage boards. Plastic chain construction is not permitted. It is recommended that the triangle be in an enclosed fenced area.

Jumping Phase

The jumping phase will consist of a short show jumping section of up to five stadium fences, that will give the horses the opportunity to demonstrate their scope and athleticism, followed immediately by a cross country section of up to ten questions. The jumping phase course should be designed in such a way as to entice a good forward thinking while asking the horses to demonstrate their ability to go across the country over varied terrain, negotiating solid obstacles, banks, a ditch, and a water question. All solid fences should be inviting, ascending and progressive in height through the course. Fences such as skinnies, corners and chevrons should not be less than 10' in width. Related distances and closed combinations should not be used, and no question should be intended to "trick" or "test" the horse with regard to a loss of confidence. The final fence on the cross country component of the jumping phase should be of a steeplechase type or ascending design to encourage the horses to jump out of stride, followed by a gallop stretch of approximately 100m, on flat ground or a slight uphill grade. Each fence/question is to be numbered separately including the water question, as well as each individual fence in the combinations. On both show jump and cross country questions there should be fillers and ground lines.

With no TD to inspect the course, it is the responsibility of the organizer to ensure that the course adheres to Equestrian Canada requirements in regards to safe, appropriate jumps, as

well as YPP class guidelines for height. The evaluator panel must inspect and give final approval of the courses to be used for the jumping test.

Heights

- 4 Year Old & New Prospects Class - 2'3" – 2'9" (Pre-entry division to soft Entry division cross country questions)
- 5 Year Old Class - 2'6" - 3' (Entry division to Pre-Training division cross country questions)

There will be a maximum of 15 fences (including show jumping questions).

All combinations, including show jumping questions, will be a minimum of two strides apart.

If used, the combination within the show jumping section of the course will be present no sooner than jump #4.

Eliminations

The following circumstances will result in Elimination:

- Three refusals at one fence or question
- Four refusals in total on the entire jumping phase
- Failure to jump the course in the correct numbered order. Exception - provided the evaluators have no safety concerns regarding a horse/or rider, they may blow the whistle if a rider misses a fence or question and allow them to correct their mistake and continue.
- Jumping any of the fences or questions before their allotted ride time.
- Fall of horse or rider on course
- Improper saddlery

Schedule

Registrants will be notified of the tentative time schedule for the evaluation after the closing date. An official printed time schedule for the evaluation will be provided with registration packages at check in.

The dressage phase of the evaluation will run first, followed by the presentation for the conformation section on the triangle, then followed by the jumping phase. In certain circumstances, for scheduling purposes, one evaluator may be asked to evaluate the conformation phase during the dressage phase of the days' activities.

Course maps will be provided with registration packages. Course will be open for walking the morning of the evaluation once the registration office opens. Course maps will also be posted at the in-gate of the Jumping test.

Saddlery

Dressage Phase

Only snaffle bridles as per Equestrian Canada Eventing rules are permitted. No boots or bandages are to be worn for dressage.

Conformation Phase

4 & 5 Year Olds and New Prospects: A proper fitting snaffle bridle.

2 & 3 Year Olds: A proper fitting snaffle bridle or leather halter is acceptable.

***ASTM/SEI Approved helmets are required for all handlers & riders for all phases of the evaluation including in hand on the triangle for the conformation phase.**

Jumping Phase

Equipment as per Equestrian Canada rules for cross country may be used. Evaluators may penalize for overly severe equipment under the overall impression/rideability mark. Boots and running martingales are optional for the jumping phase.

Attire

For dressage, collared shirt with sleeves, breeches, boots and ASTM/SEI approved helmet. Spurs are permitted as per Equestrian Canada Eventing rules for dressage. Show coat optional.

For work in hand on the triangle, collared shirt with sleeves, breeches, boots and **ASTM/SEI approved helmet. Spurs are not permitted for presenting on the triangle.**

For the jumping phase, cross country attire with ASTM/BETA approved body protector and ASTM/SEI approved helmet. Spurs/whip permitted as per Equestrian Canada Rules for cross country.

Exercising and Warm Up

Equestrian Canada rules for saddlery will apply for exercising & warm up. Helmets must be worn for exercising and warm up.

Dressage Phase: a designated warm up area will be provided. Each young prospect presented will be allowed a five minute mounted ring familiarization prior to being presented for dressage phase.

Jumping Phase: a designated warm up area will be provided. Relative to scheduling constraints, the organizer will allot a time limit of 30-45 seconds per horse OR a period of 30-45 minutes for horses to have an opportunity to walk through the water question, be familiarized around the course and have a tour around the fences. No fences or questions are to be jumped during this time under penalty of elimination.

Any fall of rider in jumping warm-up will require the rider to report to the onsite medical officer to be cleared before that rider can remount and continue to take part in the jumping phase of the evaluation.

All horses participating will be issued a bridle number at check in. Bridle numbers must be worn at all times when exercising, presenting or competing.

Any unruly horse which endangers its rider/handler, other horses, their riders/handlers, evaluators or ring crew may be dismissed by the panel or organizer.

Class Criteria & Scoring

The evaluators will be looking for horses with strong abilities and potential in dressage, with correct and elastic gaits. They will also be looking for horses that possess scope and athleticism over fences. With talent and ability in mind, they will also be looking for individuals that have the speed, stamina, as well as the physical attributes required for the soundness and longevity required to compete at the upper levels of the sport of Eventing.

Phase I Type and Conformation 15%

Horses to be presented stripped of tack and shown to evaluators in hand. 4 and 5 year old prospects to be shown in a bridle, 2 and 3 year old prospects may be shown in a bridle or leather halter. Handlers will be asked to show the horses at the walk and trot on the triangle to evaluate the gaits, for soundness and correctness. Handlers will also be asked to “stand the horse for inspection”. Color, size or gender should not be a factor in the horse’s score. Neat turnout for both horse and handler are required, handlers may present horses in riding attire (collared shirts, belts with breeches and boots acceptable). Horses to be braided.

Phase II Work on the Flat (Dressage Test) 35%

These are ‘modified dressage tests’ in that the prospects are not marked on individual movements, but on the overall impression. Three correct gaits, showing rhythm, regularity and elasticity is what the evaluators will be seeking. Young horses should not be marked down for playfulness or exuberance, however, disobedience will be reflected in the general impression of the test.

Phase III Jumping and Gallop Test 50%

The Jumping phase will incorporate a small derby type course specific to the age group being presented. It will include up to 5 show jumping fences, followed directly by up to 10 cross country fences and questions. A clearly marked section of the course will include a short gallop section (approx 100 m) that evaluators can use to assess the horse's gallop and their ability to utilize their step over undulating ground. The fence heights will follow Pre-Entry/Entry dimensions (max. 2'9") for 4 year old prospects, and Entry/Pre-Training dimensions (max. 3'0") for the 4 year old prospects. The course is to be progressive and inviting with a very small percentage of the questions being the maximum height for each age group. An event horse must be able to jump a bank, a ditch, negotiate a water obstacle, and a solid fence. Very technical or complex combinations will not be a requirement of these evaluations.

Scoring

Scores to be announced at presentations.

A comments summary for each of the competitors is to be provided after the evaluation. The evaluators may delegate, at their discretion, one member of the panel to act as spokesperson on behalf of the panel.