



2026
INTERSCHOOL NT
SELECTION POLICY



FOR MORE INFORMATION
interschool@ent.org.au

Introduction

The interest in the Northern Territory's Interschool Team is increasing every year. It is ENT's aim to develop a policy that promotes continual growth and allows sufficient flexibility for its candidates whilst also providing appropriate criteria for selection to the team.

The **PURPOSE** of the policy is to:

- give candidates a framework to qualify for the Team; and
- give the selection panel a group of qualified candidates to put forward to the Board for team selection

The **OUTCOME** of the policy is that ENT will send a high-performance team to the Australian Interschool Championship.

Definitions

ENT	Equestrian Northern Territory
EA	Equestrian Australia
The Board	Equestrian Northern Territory branch management board
Interschool NT	Interschool NT Subcommittee
The Squad	Equestrian Northern Territory Interschool Squad
The Team	The Equestrian Northern Territory Interschool Team
Table A	Events run in accordance with Articles 236 – 238 of the EA National Jumping rules. (In general terms, scoring for Table A events is where faults are penalised with points. Rounds can be against or not against the clock.)
Table C	Events run in accordance with Article 239 of the EA National Jumping Rules. (In general terms, scoring for Table C events is where faults are penalised with time penalties).
NT	Northern Territory of Australia including regions recognised being a part of the Northern Territory for the purposes of Equestrian NT.



Table of Contents

Important Information.....	2
Rider Requirements.....	4
Dressage	3
Jumping	3
Interschool Show Horse	4
Combined Training	4
Eventing.....	4
Selection.....	5
Regional Selection.....	6
Special Consideration	6
Further Information.....	6

Important Information

Please read the selection policy in detail. Changes have been made to this year's selection policy qualification period. All riders/parents will need to understand the new qualification period and how this affects selection for the 2026 National Interschool Team

An application fee of \$30.00 is required at the time of applying to be a member of the Squad. To nominate for the 2026 squad please visit the Nominate online entry platform www.nominate.com.au

Please note: the application fee is non-refundable and will not be reimbursed if the rider is not successful in the final team selection. Interschool NT will retain the application fee to be used toward the Interschool team.

Riders will only be permitted to compete in classes for which they have been selected and are in accordance with the EA Australian Interschool Championship entry terms and conditions.

Please note: the host state determines the entry terms and conditions and remain silent until the entries are open.

Horses are required to hold current EA full life registration to attend the Australian Interschool Championship.

If a rider brings their own horse(s) they can only compete in the classes they have qualified for on this horse(s).

Number of Horses per Athlete

At the Australian Interschool Championships, athletes may compete with more than one horse and in multiple disciplines with a recommendation of two classes per rider. The organising committee may accept a maximum of three classes due to scheduling and horse welfare reasons.

Qualifying Period

In 2026 there are two stages for qualifying for the selection to the NT Team.

Riders must have at least **three** qualifiers in the relevant class between 1 April 2025 and 26 July 2026.

Please note: At least one of the qualifiers must be from the 2026 competition season.

Achieving the required qualifying scores does not guarantee selection to the NT Team. Qualifying criteria is required to be met in order to be eligible to be considered for final selection.

Stage 1 - 1 April 2025 to 1 June 2026.

Any member of the Interschool NT Squad who has achieved the qualification requirements for a class(es) can submit an application for selection to the Interschool NT Subcommittee by **5pm, 1 June 2026**. The Interschool NT Subcommittee will review the applications to make sure all the required information is submitted. Early submissions allow for corrections to applications, however it does not guarantee selection to the NT Team.

Stage 2 – 2 June 2026 to 26 July 2026

Interschool NT Squad members who have not yet qualified may continue to compete to qualify for the Interschool NT Team until 26 July 2026.

Please note: There is a limit of 4 team members per class (eg 4 team members can compete at 90cm).

Team members already accepted may continue to compete during the qualification period if they wish to qualify at a higher level in their selected discipline or seek qualification in another discipline.

For example: If a rider qualifies and is selected for the 90cm Show Jumping class in May 2025 and wishes to qualify for 100cm and dressage classes, the rider can continue to compete to achieve qualification in the desired classes/disciplines up to the close of the qualifying period. Each state/territory can nominate up to 4 riders in each class.

Final applications need to be submitted by 5pm on 26 July 2026. Nominations past the due date, incorrect or incomplete nominations **will not** be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the rider and/or parent to supply Interschool NT Subcommittee with the rider's application for selection, including mandatory qualifying results correctly completed on the specified result form.

Qualifying Criteria

Dressage

Riders must compete in a minimum of 3 separate* tests over at least 3 separate competition days, at or above the level the rider is seeking to be selected:

- Preliminary (Primary School) minimum scores of 62%
- Preliminary (Secondary School) minimum scores of 63%
- Novice (Primary School) minimum scores of 61%
- Novice (Secondary School) minimum scores of 62%
- Elementary, Medium, Advanced and PSG (Secondary School) minimum scores of 60%

When more than one judge is used to judge the test, the total combined score of all the judges is to be used, and not each individual judge's score i.e. that test will not count as 2 separate tests, it will count as 1.

Tests where the rider was eliminated (for any reason) will not count.

Only competitions judged by an EA Accredited Dressage Judge for the level will be eligible.

Show Jumping

Riders must compete in at least 3 qualifying jumping classes over a minimum of 3 separate competition days*.

*Qualifying jumping classes:

- must have a maximum first round starting height at or above the height that the rider is seeking selection in, and be a combination of the following:
 - at least two classes with no jumping penalties; and
 - at least one class with no more than 4 jumping penalties.
- Note: 'Class(s)' is defined as the first round only and:**
- include Table A, Table C & 2 Round events but do not include Six Bar events, and
 - do not include classes where the rider was eliminated (for any reason).

Only competitions judged by an EA Accredited Show Jumping Judge will be eligible.

Interschool Show Horse

Riders must compete in:

- a minimum of 3 rider, and/or hack/hunter classes over a minimum of 3 separate competition days, with at least 1 first place obtained with more than 1 rider/horse in the class,
- a minimum of 3 led or handler classes over a minimum of 3 separate days
- at least 1 first place attained where there is more than 1 rider/horse in the class.

Combined Training

Riders must compete in:

- a minimum of 3 tests (refer to the Dressage Section) over at least 3 separate competition days at or above the level the rider is seeking to be selected in, and
- a minimum of 3 qualifying jumping classes* (refer to the Jumping Section) over a minimum of 3 separate competition days.

Eventing

Riders must have competed in Eventing at or above the level at which the rider is seeking to be selected. Due to the lack of Eventing classes offered in the NT, riders are encouraged to submit details of all Eventing classes in which they have competed during the qualifying period for consideration by Interschool NT Subcommittee and the Board.

Qualifying Classes

Qualifying classes may be official EA classes or classes at events conducted by an ENT affiliate and/or another state branch affiliate. These events may include unofficial classes and may be held anywhere in Australia. For Pony Club events to be considered the Pony Club event must be affiliated with ENT and the classes must be conducted under EA Rules and Regulations with EA officials.

Qualifications can be achieved on one or more days of a multi-day event. i.e. Gala, Championships, Royal Show

Training or practice days, freshman days and any virtual activities/competitions are not eligible to be considered as qualifying classes for the purpose of this policy.

Rider Requirements

Riders must be a current EA member (any level of membership) at the time of applying to be a member of the squad and membership must remain current for the duration of the selection period. Riders must be current ENT Junior/Senior Competitor member at the time of accepting selection on the team.

Riders and their appointed guardian over 18 years of age must attend the mandatory information session to understand the commitment of attending the Australian Interschool Championship and the Selection Policy. A date for the information session will be scheduled after squad nominations have closed.

Riders must be attending either primary or secondary school during the qualifying period and the calendar year of the National Competition. This can include boarding school, distance education or where the rider physically attends a school outside the NT. For the qualifying period the riders primary place of residence* must be in the NT.

**Primary place of residence is considered to be where the riders family unit normally reside to work or attend school, and spend the majority of their time.*

Riders will be expected to attend and compete in regular events throughout the qualifying period.

All riders must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at the Australian Interschool Championship. The rider must be a current competitor member of ENT. The nominated guardian must be a current member of ENT and/or another state branch. All parties, including spectators and supporters, must adhere to the *EA Code of Conduct*.

Pool Horse

Where the selected rider is unable to take their own horse/s, riders will have the option of:

- a) finding their own suitable horse (e.g.: borrowing a suitable horse through their own contacts
- b) seeking a pool horse from the host state– if pool horses are offered.

It must be noted that the supply of pool horses is not guaranteed. The supply of pool horses is at the sole discretion of the host state. Please check the EA Australian Interschool Championship entry terms and conditions for pool horse conditions

Selection

At the completion of the qualifying period for both Stage 1 and Stage 2, the Interschool NT Subcommittee will consider and decide on applications received. Candidates will be notified in writing of the outcome of their applications.

The results recording sheet for all disciplines and copies of all dressage tests riders are seeking qualifications for must be submitted together with the application.

Interschool NT Subcommittee is responsible for validating and assessing each rider's application against this policy and make a recommendation to the ENT Board for ratification before the candidate is advised of the outcome.

Application results will be provided along with the NT Subcommittee validation and assessment of each rider to the ENT board within 7 days of Interschool NT Subcommittee receiving the applications.

A reason for the decision will be recorded for each application.

Regional Selection

Where the rider is located outside the Greater Darwin region, and where the opportunity to compete in qualifying events is limited, riders may apply for special consideration for entry into the Interschool Team. Riders will still need to provide qualification scores at level before being considered for a class but can seek special consideration in the number of qualifying scores achieved.

Special Consideration

Riders may apply for special consideration on the grounds of rider or horse injury or illness during the selection period, outlining what qualifications they have obtained and why they should be considered when they have not achieved qualification requirements. If a rider was selected in the prior competition year under special consideration, this special consideration expires after the event in the prior year. Special consideration only relates to the current year.

Appropriate medical and/or veterinary evidence must be provided. The NT Subcommittee and the Board may request further information.

Riders experiencing exceptional circumstances may apply for exemptions where they have been unable to meet the requirements set out in this policy. Riders will need to outline what qualifications they have achieved and why they should be considered when they have not achieved qualification requirements. Exemption applicants are expected to have previous competition experience.

Applications for exemption from this policy MUST be submitted to the appointed selection panel by **5pm, 26 July 2026**.

Further Information

Further information relating to interschool competition is available on the ENT website www.nt.equestrian.org.au/sports/interschool

Or contact Interschool NT Subcommittee via email interschool@ent.org.au

This policy is subject to change as agreed by the ENT Board.