



Dressage Tasmania Performance and Development Squad

1. Introduction

The Dressage Tasmania Performance and Development Squad aims to support and elevate Tasmania's emerging dressage riders by providing consistent access to elite training, comprehensive education, and a collaborative team environment. With the main goal of the Performance Squad representing Tasmania at a national level.

2. Program Goals and Aims

- Develop skills and achieve competitive benchmarks
- Represent Tasmania with distinction
- Engage in a culture of teamwork, integrity and discipline.

2.1 Provide access to top-class instruction

Offer horse-and-rider combinations regular opportunities to train with leading dressage coaches to develop and refine skills in alignment with national performance standards. Each squad member is offered four weekend training opportunities throughout the year.

2.2 Deliver a holistic approach to competition preparation

Provide complementary education across all facets of the sport, including rider fitness, horse health, competition strategy, nutrition, and veterinary insights. These opportunities may be in person or virtually.

2.3 Build camaraderie and professionalism

Develop a sense of unity, teamwork, and leadership within the Tasmanian dressage community.

To support the program, riders are required to contribute volunteer assistance at least once annually. This may include helping with fundraising, lunch coordination, social media, coach transport and other program-related tasks.

2.4 Establish a Pathway to the National Dressage Championships

Create a structured development framework to prepare riders for participation in national-level events for riders on the Performance Squad.

3. Governance and Oversight

The Squad will be managed by Dressage Tasmania State Dressage Authority and aligns with the Equestrian Australia Performance and the Pathways program. Squad will be limited to 20 members. All selection decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Riders will be required to be a current member of Dressage Tasmania, in order to participate in the Squad program.

4. Eligibility Criteria

All riders regardless of category (Competitive, Para or Young Rider) are eligible to apply for inclusion to the Squad if they obtain the relevant qualifications or offer a supporting statement.

Riders must submit three percentages from two different OPEN EA competitions using the table below, from at least two qualifying events.

Selection is based on a horse-and-rider combination who express interest and includes eligibility criteria: results in the top two placings at State Championships, fitness and soundness in both horse and rider, EA and Dressage Tasmania membership, and compliance with all rules and anti-doping policies. Options to apply if you do not meet the criteria are available as well.

The Performance Squad supports riders who demonstrate and aspire to competitive success at State and National Championships and prepares athletes for higher performance expectations.

Requirement – Performance Squad	Criteria
Membership	Current ETAS and Dressage License, current member of Dressage Tasmania
Horse Eligibility	No age restriction, must meet minimum EQ requirements
Competition Standard	Official EA competitions only, Freestyle scores not counted
Levels enabling selection	Minimum average score (three official results required) Priority may be given to at least one score at a State Championship
Preliminary	70%
Novice	68%
Elementary	68%
Medium	66%
Advanced	65%
Small Tour	65%
Medium Tour	64%
Big Tour	64%

5. Benefits

- Publication of rider name on the Dressage Tasmania website
- Access to online education resources
- Attendance at Judges’ seminars and coaching sessions
- Invitation to Dressage Tasmania-endorsed ridden clinics (partially funded, subject to capacity)
- Focus on competition readiness and performance sustainability
- Integrated rider and horse wellbeing support
- Recognition as a Squad athlete.



The Development Squad is the entry point to the Dressage Tasmania Squad. It recognises riders who have demonstrated performance benchmarks and provides development, education and recognition opportunities.

Requirement – Development Squad	Criteria
Membership	Current ETAS and Dressage License, current member of Dressage Tasmania
Horse Eligibility	No age restriction, must meet minimum EQ requirements
Competition Standard	Official EA competitions only, freestyle scores are not counted
Levels enabling selection	Minimum average score (3 official results required)
Preliminary	68%
Novice	66%
Elementary	66%
Medium	65%
Advanced	64%
Small Tour	63%
Medium Tour	63%
Big Tour	63%

6. Benefits

- Publication of rider name on the Dressage Tasmania Website
- Access to online education resources
- Attendance at Judges' seminars and coaching sessions
- Invitation to Dressage Tasmania-endorsed ridden clinics.

Qualifying period is from State Championships 2025 – 2026

Riders who are passionate about developing their skills are encouraged to apply, even if circumstances have prevented them from meeting the eligibility criteria. If you have demonstrated steady progress, commitment to training, or strong potential, we welcome you to submit an Expression of Interest. Please include a short statement outlining your situation and your goals for the year.

7. Structure

David and Robbie McKinnon will provide regular instruction every three months in person over a weekend. Clinics will be held statewide and horses and riders will commit to travelling statewide to attend these clinics. Other national or international coaches may be offered to members throughout the year. Priority will be given to Performance Squad Members.

8. Conclusion

The Squad will provide a structured pathway for riders seeking higher performance opportunities within a supportive and professional environment.