



HORSE SPORT
IRELAND

REQUEST FOR TENDER

**HIGH-
PERFORMANCE
SERVICES FOR
SENIOR
EVENTING**

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Request for Tender (RFT): High-Performance Services for Senior Eventing

1. Introduction

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) is the National Governing Body for equestrian sport in Ireland. HSI is committed to fostering excellence in High-Performance Programme delivery, supporting athletes, horses, and their connections in achieving their full potential on the global stage.

Looking towards the Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, HSI is dedicated to preparing Ireland's senior eventing athletes for sustained international success. This Request for Tender (RFT) seeks to engage innovative and capable service providers to design, implement, and manage High-Performance Programmes for Senior Eventing.

HSI's approach prioritises collaboration, innovation, and long-term sustainability, moving beyond traditional methods to ensure enduring success.

2. Why the RFT Model?

This RFT reflects HSI's commitment to:

- Attracting competitive and innovative proposals from experienced eventing sport managers with expertise in High-Performance Programme delivery.
- Ensuring resources are utilised efficiently and aligned with global best practices in athlete and horse development.
- Focusing on long-term sustainability, medal-winning performances, and building Ireland's Olympic and World Championship talent pipeline.
- This structured, collaborative model acknowledges the complexity of managing senior eventing programmes and the need for tailored strategies to maximise success.

3. Who Should Apply?

Proposals are invited from eventing sport managers with complementary expertise who share a vision for creating a world-class high-performance pathway for senior athletes. Applicants must outline their proposed management structures, specifying the roles and responsibilities. This should include individuals responsible for:

Team Management:

Providing strategic leadership at international competitions, including acting as Chef d'Équipe. Devising and implementing the overall High-Performance Plan for the Senior Eventing Team with a clear pathway to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. Designing and operating a fair, transparent, and performance-focused selection process. Building strong relationships with athletes, owners, and stakeholders to ensure alignment with programme objectives.

Athlete Development:

Creating and monitoring individual athlete development plans (including horse combinations), with a focus on technical performance across all three phases, competition planning, and long-term progression to Olympic and World Championship levels. Ensuring appropriate support structures are in place for each athlete.

Technical Expertise:

The successful service provider will be required to source the necessary coaches for each of the three phases of eventing (dressage, show jumping, and cross-country) and to identify the performance needs across the discipline.

1. Delivering high-quality technical input aligned with international best practices in eventing. The successful service provider will be required to source the necessary coaches for each of the three phases (if necessary) (dressage, show jumping, and cross-country) and to identify the specific performance needs across the discipline.
2. Proposals must include a detailed training plan for the 2025 season, setting out key milestones, indicative timelines, and an estimated cost for delivery. Service providers are invited to identify current gaps and challenges within the discipline, phase by phase, and to set out how these will be addressed in their proposed programme. This should include targeted solutions for areas requiring significant improvement (for example, dressage performance) and clear strategies to remedy these through coaching, training structures, and athlete support.
3. Proposals should also detail any innovative or novel approaches to training, including the integration of sport science and specialist expertise. This includes providing coaching support where required to ensure technical excellence and consistency in performance, and identifying and engaging additional experts (such as dressage, show jumping, or cross-country specialists or advisors) to optimise athlete and horse performance.
4. The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the Team Manager will integrate these elements to deliver a cohesive, athlete-centred programme for Senior Eventing.

4. Purpose and Scope of Services

Purpose: To secure service providers capable of delivering a world-class High-Performance Programme for Senior Eventing.

Scope of Services:

1. Devise and implement a comprehensive High-Performance Plan for the Senior Eventing Team, with clear objectives and progression metrics, aligned with the pathway to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and beyond.
2. Design and deliver individual athlete development plans (including horse combinations) focused on technical performance, competition planning, and long-term progression to Olympic and World Championship level. Provide access to technical experts, delivering progressive training aligned with international best practices and tailored to the specific needs of senior eventing athletes and horses.
3. Design and implement a robust, fair, transparent, and data-driven selection process as a central element of the programme. Selection must be clearly embedded within the High-Performance Plan, ensuring criteria are published in advance, consistently applied, and fully communicated. The management team will be responsible for managing all aspects of selection, from establishing criteria to issuing decisions, with accountability to Horse Sport Ireland.
4. Provide strong leadership at international competitions, and throughout programme delivery, including acting as Chef d'Équipe, with responsibility for selection, strategy, and on-event management.

5. Embed a strong programme culture that promotes excellence, professionalism, and accountability. Foster an environment of respect, transparency, and collaboration where athlete & horse welfare, open communication, and integrity guide all aspects of programme delivery.
6. Build and maintain strong relationships with athletes, owners, support teams, and the FEI, ensuring all activity is aligned with National Federation governance and long-term programme sustainability.
7. Act as an ambassador for Horse Sport Ireland and its values, consistently striving for excellence and representing Team Ireland with professionalism and integrity on the international stage.

5. Role of the National Federation (NF) – Horse Sport Ireland

Horse Sport Ireland, as the National Federation for equestrian sport in Ireland, holds ultimate responsibility for the delivery of High-Performance Programmes. As the only entity recognised by the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI), HSI provides the governance framework, professional executive management and leadership, and policy oversight to ensure programme success.

This collaboration seeks to:

1. Ensure Irish athletes excel at senior levels, including European Championships, World Championships, Nations Cups, and Olympic Games.
2. Build a sustainable pathway enabling athletes to compete consistently on the global stage.
3. Combine the NF's leadership with sector expertise to deliver a cohesive, athlete-centred programme.

6. Tender Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate:

- A deep understanding of High-Performance Eventing at senior international level.
Proven experience in designing and delivering aligned athlete performance plans in eventing.
- Strong governance experience within equestrian sport, ensuring alignment with National Federation standards and international best practice.
- Technical expertise in senior eventing performance, including coaching and competition planning at elite level.
- The ability to collaborate inclusively with multidisciplinary teams (e.g., coaches, vets, sport science, owners, and support staff).

7. Service Delivery Fee

Service Suppliers are invited to put forward their fee for the delivery of the proposed services, together with an estimate of the likely outlay and expenses to be incurred, and any taxes to be applied. The fee should cover planning, programme development, event attendance (including Chef d'Équipe responsibilities).

8. Submission Requirements

Applicants must provide:

- a) A narrative of up to 1,000 words outlining the proposed programme design, the high-level selection concept, and how the applicant will foster the desired

programme culture (excellence, professionalism, accountability, respect, and collaboration).

- b) A schedule of events to be attended through the seasons up to Los Angeles 2028, with indicative timelines and key milestones.
- c) Details of the personnel included in the delivery team, specifying roles and responsibilities.
- d) A CV and qualifications for the nominated Chef d'Équipe, outlining relevant experience and technical expertise.
- e) Optional value-added innovations that may enhance programme delivery.
- f) The fee for the delivery of the proposed services, together with an estimate of the likely outlay and expenses to be incurred, and any taxes to be applied.
- g) Disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the performance of the contract.
- h) Confirmation of tax compliance: Applicants must provide evidence of current tax compliance in their jurisdiction. Where applicable, successful applicants will be required to obtain and provide an Irish Tax Clearance Certificate prior to the award of contract.
- i) Confirmation of Legal Entity (Company) that suppliers are operating from.
- j) Insurance: Applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide proof of relevant insurances, including public liability and professional indemnity insurance.

9. Award Criteria

Criterion	Weighting	Raw Score (Out of 100)
Relevant Knowledge, Technical Expertise, Experience	50%	
Capability of Delivery of Services	30%	
Cost	20%	
Total Marks	100%	

1. Relevant Knowledge, Technical Expertise, and Experience (50%)

Tenderers should demonstrate:

- 1. In-depth knowledge of senior international eventing at High-Performance level.
- 2. Governance experience within equestrian sport, ensuring alignment with NF and FEI requirements.
- 3. Proven technical expertise in coaching, team management, and competition planning for senior eventing.
- 4. A record of successfully designing and delivering internationally aligned athlete programmes.

2. Capability of Delivery of Services (30%)

High scores will be awarded to tenderers with proven expertise and experience in delivering similar services. CVs must be provided for all personnel involved, clearly showcasing their qualifications, technical achievements, and governance background.

3. Cost (20%)

All costs, including VAT, must be included in the quotation and presented in Euro. Prices must remain valid for the duration of the work. The evaluation will consider cost-effectiveness alongside the tenderer's ability to meet the brief requirements.

The assessment panel reserves the right to reject any or all submissions, or cancel the process without liability.

10. Submission Details and Closing Date

How to Apply:

Submit proposals confidentially via email to procurement@horsesportireland.ie

with subject line:

"RFT Submission: High-Performance Services for Senior Eventing"

Closing Date:

All proposals must be received by 5:00 pm GMT on Friday, 24 October 2025.

Late submissions will not be considered.

Confidentiality & Data Privacy:

All submissions will be treated as strictly confidential and processed in line with GDPR.