



HORSE SPORT
IRELAND

REQUEST FOR TENDER

**HIGH-PERFORMANCE
SERVICES FOR
YOUTH EVENTING**

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Request for Tender (RFT): High-Performance Services for Youth Eventing (Ponies, Juniors and Young Riders).

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 Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games and beyond, HSI is dedicated to developing the next generation of Ireland's eventing athletes. Youth athletes are the foundation of future senior success, and building strong pathways at this stage is essential to ensuring long-term international competitiveness.

This Request for Tender (RFT) seeks to engage innovative and capable service providers to design, implement, and manage High-Performance Programmes for Youth Eventing. The aim is to provide a clear pathway that nurtures young athletes, supports their education and development, and equips them with the skills and experiences needed to progress confidently towards senior championship level.

HSI's approach prioritises athlete welfare, learning, and personal growth, alongside sporting excellence. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and a strong culture of professionalism, the Youth Eventing Programme will create an environment where Ireland's young riders can thrive, be inspired, and realise their potential as the future of our sport.

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 development pathway for youth athletes. Applicants must outline their proposed management structures, specifying the roles and responsibilities. This should include individuals responsible for:

Programme Management

- Providing strategic leadership in the design and delivery of the Youth Eventing High-Performance Programme.
- Creating an environment that nurtures athlete growth, learning, and progression, while maintaining high standards of professionalism and accountability.

- Building strong relationships with athletes, parents, owners, and stakeholders to ensure alignment with programme objectives.

Athlete Development

- Designing 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 towards senior level.
- Ensuring appropriate support structures are in place for each athlete, including access to coaching, education, and welfare supports.

Technical Expertise

1. Delivering high-quality technical input aligned with international best practices in youth eventing. The service provider will be expected to source the necessary coaches for each of the three phases (dressage, show jumping, and cross-country) as required, and to identify the specific performance and training needs across the discipline.
2. Proposals must include a training framework for the 2025 season, focused on preparing athletes and horses for **championship success** at Pony, Junior, and Young Rider European level. This should set 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 explain how these will be addressed in their proposed programme.
3. Proposals should also detail any innovative or novel approaches to youth training, including the integration of sport science, education, and athlete support services. This may include coaching support to ensure technical consistency, and engagement with additional expertise (e.g. dressage, show jumping, or cross-country specialists) to optimise athlete and horse development.
4. The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the Programme Manager will integrate these elements to deliver a cohesive, development-focused programme for Youth Eventing, with the ultimate goal of consistent championship performance and long-term progression to senior international level.

4. Purpose and Scope of Services

Purpose

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

Scope of Services

1. Devise and implement a comprehensive High-Performance Plan for the Youth Eventing Programme, with clear objectives and progression metrics, aligned with the pathway towards Pony, Junior, and Young Rider European Championships, and long-term development towards Brisbane 2032 and beyond.
2. Design and deliver individual athlete development plans (including horse combinations), focused on technical performance across all three phases,

championship preparation, and progression towards senior level. Ensure appropriate support structures are in place to enable athletes to thrive both in competition and in their wider development.

3. Provide access to technical experts, delivering progressive training aligned with international best practices and tailored to the needs of youth eventing athletes and horses.
4. Develop a Championship Plan, setting out the proposed preparation for major Youth Championships. This must include the key events and training opportunities abroad where Irish athletes can be tested against their international peers, and an indicative timeline and cost framework to support delivery. The Championship Plan should demonstrate how competing at international events will provide vital peer benchmarking opportunities, and how these experiences will be used to strengthen athlete confidence, adaptability, and long-term progression towards senior championship success.
5. Design and implement a fair, transparent, and data-informed selection process for Youth Championships. Selection must be clearly embedded within the High-Performance Plan, with criteria 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.
6. Provide strong leadership at international competitions, and throughout programme delivery, including acting as Chef d'Équipe, with responsibility for strategy, athlete preparation, and on-event management.
7. Embed a positive programme culture that promotes learning, excellence, and accountability. Foster an environment of respect, open communication, and collaboration, where athlete and horse welfare, education, and integrity are central to programme delivery.
8. Build and maintain strong relationships with athletes, parents, owners, support teams, and the FEI, ensuring all activity is aligned with National Federation governance and long-term programme sustainability.
9. Act as an ambassador for Horse Sport Ireland and its values, consistently striving for excellence, representing Team Ireland with professionalism, and inspiring the next generation of athletes.

Youth Championships are the foundation of future senior success. The Youth Eventing High-Performance Programme must ensure that athletes gain not only technical skills but also the confidence, resilience, and professionalism required to progress to senior international level. Competing at European Championships and other international events provides essential peer benchmarking, testing athletes against the best of their age group worldwide. The programme should demonstrate how these championship experiences will be used as stepping stones towards long-term senior success, embedding a culture of excellence, welfare, and accountability from the earliest stages.

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 youth levels, including European Championships.

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 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 youth 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 Youth 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.

