



JUMPING
QUEENSLAND

SQUAD PERFORMANCE CARDS Q&A

Why has the Squad Criteria changed?

The previous Jumping Queensland (JQ) Squad selection process presented challenges due to the sheer number of jumping events, the wide-range of competition and geographically where events are held to name a few. The selection process must be fair and equitable, with the two most common systems used in recent years both having issues which Jumping Queensland have attempted to address. Those issues include:

Points Based System

- A points-based system worked well for riders in South East Queensland, however, it seemed that it somewhat disadvantaged regional riders who found it difficult to attend the nominated events.
- If an event is one of those listed for squad eligibility, the course should be built to the requisite heights of 120cm for Juniors and 130cm for Young Riders. At times, the courses had needed to be built at a lower height with rider safety in mind, and those riders have received a squad place without having jumped the requisite height.
- Event organisers need to be mindful of ensuring the program is going to attract enough riders to make the event viable. If there are not enough riders to run a 130cm young rider, the organising committee cannot dedicate space on the program for this event, making it difficult to offer as part of a point scored system.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

- The EOI process works well for riders in South East Queensland. To some degree it relies on the selection panel knowing the riders and endorsing them, which may at times disadvantage regional riders.
- Verifying of results provided to the selectors is extremely time consuming;
- When performances are based on junior and young rider classes, the quality of jumping competition needs to be considered, with some important information currently not collected.
- An EOI process is limited with that data provided in any submission.

Both systems did not recognise the athletes who are developing towards squad qualification. Jumping Queensland are committed to the development of all athletes, so therefore need to build a data base of juniors and young riders who are interested in developing themselves and the holding of a Squad Performance Card will be key to this. Throughout the year, should opportunities arise for non-squad riders to attend training clinics, invitations will be extended to holders of a Squad Performance Card before any EOI is extended to the general membership.

Does the result have to be in a junior or young rider class?

No, the new system relates to any eligible class which has a published start height of 120cm and above for Juniors and 130cm and above for young riders. This is important as it will recognise the effort of riders who are trying to improve themselves. For instance, an athlete may be very competitive in a 120cm class, and attempt a 130cm class instead. While they may find that they have a rail or two and perhaps do not place, the attempt at self-improvement is key information, which the selection panel will take great interest in.



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Isn't the idea of having to record performances a bit outdated? Surely the results in the EA system collected after events is enough.

The EA jumping results system is a great way to track what events a horse and rider have attended and where they have placed, however, in most cases the system only captures those results from 1st to 3rd. The JQ selection panel are interested in all of the data relating to the performance, not just the overall place.

For example:

- A junior has competed in a 120cm open class against much more experienced riders. The junior might have placed 30th in a class of 80 riders and jumped double clear, however the overall result in the EA system will only record a result to 3rd from 80. If the rider has jumped double clear or only had one fault, that result is important for the selection panel to consider.

Why does the card need to be signed?

There are two reasons for this;

- The published start height of a course may need to be lowered depending on the experience of those riders who nominate. Therefore, the official signing the card is verifying the actual course height.
- We hope that the juniors and young riders of today will be in the sport for many years and becoming familiar with the officials who support the sport is important. This gives those juniors and young riders, who may not know the EA officials, an opportunity to familiarise themselves and engage with those that deliver the sport regularly.

I'm not currently jumping the squad qualifying height – should I ask for a Squad Performance Card and record my results?

YES! As noted in question 1, it is crucial for any junior or young rider who is interested in improving themselves but might not be jumping the requisite squad heights to still apply for a card and record your results. We will issue a card to any:

- Junior rider currently jumping 105cm and above
- Young rider currently jumping 120cm and above

Recording your performances not only assists the JQ Squad Selection Panel, it also enables the athlete to see where they are making improvements and to track their own performance.

There will be opportunities throughout the year for riders who are not currently squad members (but are able to display progress on their performance cards) to join the squads in training. Jumping Queensland are also working on an exciting Youth Teams Challenge concept which is likely to be launched at the Spring Showjumping event and will only be open to holders of a Squad Performance Card.