



SADDLE SEAT CANADA 2026 WORLD CUP RIDER APPLICATION

As the governing body for Canada's national Saddle Seat team, Saddle Seat Canada is inviting amateur saddle seat equitation riders to apply for a position on the Canada's team that will compete at the 2026 ISSEA Saddle Seat Equitation WORLD CUP, scheduled to be held **June 29 to July 2, 2026, Shelbyville, Kentucky**

EVENT DESCRIPTION AND RIDER ELIGIBILITY:

The 2026 ISSEA World Cup will consist of a 3-Gaited Competition and 5-Gaited Competition for amateur saddle seat equitation riders. Each of these two sections of the World Cup event include the following:

- Draws for patterns, team horses, Group A and B if necessary, and pattern order of go for each rider.
- There will be patterns distributed in the month prior to the competition with the 2 patterns for the competition to be drawn before the commencement of the competition.
- Two practice days where coaches will be matching riders with the team's horses that they decide are best suited to the riders. Riders are required to ride one horse on Day 1 of competition and then a different horse on Day 2 of competition.
- Competition days will consist of riders competing in a rail work class as well as executing an individual test/pattern. 3G and 5G competitions usually see riders divided into groups (A or B). These groups will be decided based on the number of countries participating so that groups are generally 12-15 riders/horses. Competition Day 1 will be called Phase 1 and Competition Day 2 will be called Phase 2.
- Each country's team(s) will consist of 6 riders, all of whom will ride all portions of the World Cup competition. For clarity, this means that if a country has a 3G team and a 5G team, 6 riders will be named and ride all portions of the 3G section and 6 riders will be named and ride all portions of the 5G section. Riders are permitted to show in both 3G and 5G if so, named by their country.

Applications received will be scored by no less than 3 individuals selected by the Saddle Seat Canada Board of Directors (see details in the next section). The riders with the highest scoring applications will be invited to participate in the "Tryout" segment of the team selection. **Tryouts are scheduled for November 29, 2025.** Riders will be evaluated by a judging panel. The quality and scores achieved on the applications combined with the Tryout scores, will determine placement on teams and will decide if Canada is able to field a 3G and/or 5G team.

World Cup applicants must be:

- ❖ 14 years of age or older as of December 1, 2025
- ❖ Canadian citizen
- ❖ Possess a valid Canadian passport
- ❖ Possess a current Equestrian Canada Sport License (with Amateur designation if over 18 yrs)
- ❖ Possess the applicable provincial equestrian sport organization (PSO) membership (ex. AEF, HCBC, Ontario Equestrian)
- ❖ Possess current membership with Saddle Seat Canada (membership can be obtained/renewed by emailing Raylene McWade rmcwade@xplornet.com for form and payment. New memberships will reflect 2026 membership in SSC.

World Cup Applications must be received no later than NOVEMBER 3, 2025

SELECTION CRITERIA AND WORLD CUP TEAM TRYOUTS

Applications will be scored by a panel of at least 3 people who have either coaching or judging experience in Saddle Seat Equitation, and who do not have riders submitting applications. **Application scores** will be based on a perfect score of 100 and include the following components:

- Show experience and show record – 40 points
- Equitation experience and record– 40 points
- International show experience – 20 points

The applicants with the highest application scores will then be invited to an in-person TRYOUT.

The Tryout date is scheduled for NOVEMBER 29, 2025 – tentative location The Pointe, Strathcona County, Alberta

- The Tryout will consist of riding an unfamiliar horse (a horse not ridden, owned or shown by the participant in the last 3 months)
- Evaluated by a panel of independent judges.
- Group rail class as well as an individual test/pattern
- The six patterns from the previous World Cup will be sent to those invited to the Tryouts.
- The Tryout pattern will be the one drawn by the panel of judges and communicated to the athletes 1 day prior to the Tryout.
- The scores from the Tryout combined with the application scores will determine which applicants will be invited to become a member of Canada's World Cup team for the 2026 competition.
- Athletes selected to attend the World Cup Tryout will be notified no later than **NOVEMBER 7th, 2025.**

TEAM SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION:

- ✓ Applicants will receive feedback regarding their Applications and Tryout scores.
- ✓ Selected Team Canada Member Athletes will be invited to sign an acceptance letter. At which time, the rider fee of **\$2,500.00 per rider** will be required. The athletes may choose an option to pay \$1250.00 (half of the fee) at this time and commit to fundraising or securing sponsorship for the remaining \$1250.00. Arrangements can be made with Saddle Seat Canada to submit Cash, Cheque or E-Transfer. It is the intent of Saddle Seat Canada to send the most qualified athletes to compete on behalf of Canada, so please communicate any financial need or assistance that may be a factor.
- ✓ Rider fees are designed to cover the ISSEA competition fee as well as accommodation, food and team clothing for the athletes and coaches. Airfare is not covered by the rider fee. Fundraising and sponsorship efforts will be ongoing and will require the active participation of all team members. There will be opportunity to do fundraising as a group to help offset all costs including rider fees.
- ✓ Saddle Seat Canada will officially name the World Cup Team after all selected athletes have returned their acceptance letters, and all rider fees have been received. It is not permitted to post any team information on social media or elsewhere until such time as Saddle Seat Canada has done so.
- ✓ If a selected athlete declines the invitation to be a member of Team Canada or is not otherwise able to fulfill the obligations of a named team member within one week of being extended the invitation to do so, the athlete with the next highest Tryout and application scores will be offered a place on the team if the Saddle Seat Canada board advises to do so.
- ✓ Athletes named to the team are expected to make every attempt to attend all team events/practices/clinics
- ✓ Athletes are to make every attempt to ride with different coaches in their area as well as ride a variety of horses in their journey to World Cup.

APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS & REQUIREMENTS:

World Cup Applications must be completed in full and include all required documents and attachments as outlined here. **Please ensure that your application package is sent and received well in advance of the deadline **NOVEMBER 3, 2025**. Acknowledgement of receipt of the application will be communicated via email.**

Email completed application packages to: **Rmcwade@xplornet.com**

Attachments to be included with your application:

- Application Fee of \$100.00 for EACH section applied (3G and/or 5G) Cheque, Cash or E-transfer accepted
- Completed Application form and signed Code of Conduct Policy Statement
- A show photo of applicant in Saddle Seat riding attire, on a horse (photo must be a private or purchased photo. Proofs and/or watermarked photos will not be considered as part of the application)
- Copies of current EC Sport License and Provincial equestrian sport organization membership card(e.g. AEF, HCBC, Ontario Equestrian Federation), Saddle Seat Canada membership card
- Reference letters as detailed on page 5

Please give careful consideration of the following points before sending an application:

- time and financial commitments such as rider fees, commitment to team fundraising and sponsorship goals
- availability for team practices, clinics, and events
- ability to work well under pressure and willingness to incorporate stress management techniques as suggested by coaches and SSC management
- ability to work with a diverse group of riders, coaches, Board of Directors and clinic representatives
- ability to accept constructive feedback and ability to respect coaching decisions and strategies



Saddle Seat Canada looks forward to participating in World Cup 2026! Should you have any questions about the application or the application process, kindly email Raylene McWade Rmcwade@xplornet.com



SADDLE SEAT CANADA – 2026 WORLD CUP RIDER APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME: _____ CHECK ONE OR BOTH _____ 3G TEAM _____ 5G TEAM

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EC SPORT LICENSE# _____ PROVINCIAL SPORT MEMBERSHIP # _____

CURRENT COACH

NAME: _____ BARN NAME _____

FREQUENCY OF LESSONS (E.G once a week) _____

APPLICANT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. a. Please indicate how many years you have been riding saddle seat. _____
b. During the 2025 show season, did you compete in saddle seat divisions? If yes, indicate in which divisions you competed (including but not limited to saddle seat equitation). If no, indicate the reason why and when you last were showing in saddle seat divisions.

2. Please indicate coaches you have worked with in the past and in what capacity – including those who have coached you in lessons, the show ring or clinics.

3. Give a description of your show record including dates and details of local, regional, international events, significant wins and awards. Please include any involvement with Saddle Seat Canada Invitationals and/or World Cup here.

4. Please list details of clinics (including Saddle Seat Canada events) you have participated in or attended.

5. Please describe how you would define your personal equestrian strengths and weaknesses.

6. Describe why you feel you could be an asset to Canada's World Cup Team. How do you see yourself contributing to the team's success? Feel free to add any further information that is not already included.

REFERENCES

(Written references must accompany your application and must be signed by the reference provider.)

1. Please provide at least one written reference letter from a professional coach/instructor that has worked with you. Ensure the reference letter provides details on your saddle seat and equitation abilities, your equestrian successes, your strengths, show abilities and the length of time your reference has worked with you. Ensure the letter includes the coach's/instructor's signature, the coach's/instructor's name, barn name, phone number, email address and current coaching designations (NCCP IOB Saddle Seat Equitation, Equestrian Canada Registered/License Coach).
2. Please provide one written reference (non-horse related and not related to you) from an employer and/or teacher. Ensure the reference letter includes details about your work or school successes, and the timeframe that your reference has worked with you. Ensure the letter includes the reference's name, the reference's signature, and phone and email contact information.

Saddle Seat Canada Code of Conduct Policy Statement

- ❖ SSC is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Members of SSC shall refrain from comments or behavior that is disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. Behavior that constitutes harassment or abuse will not be tolerated by SSC.
- ❖ During all SSC activities and events, members must avoid behavior that brings the team into disrepute including but not limited to abusive use of alcohol and non-medical use of drugs. Smoking and/or vaping is discouraged and will not be permitted for those athletes who are underage.
- ❖ Members shall not use illicit drugs/narcotics or performance enhancing drugs or methods.
- ❖ Members shall adhere to SSC operational policies and procedures, to rules governing SSC events and activities, and to rules governing any events in which the member participates on behalf of SSC.
- ❖ Members shall not engage in any activity or behavior which interferes with a competition or with any rider's preparation for a competition, or which endangers the safety of others.
- ❖ Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Discipline policy of SSC. Such action may result in the member losing the privileges that come with membership in SSC, including the opportunity to participate in World Cup or Invitational activities.
- ❖ As a member of Team Canada and a member, alternate member, coach or manager of the Saddle Seat Canada team, I acknowledge my obligation to uphold and adhere to the highest standards of horsemanship, sportsmanship and citizenship whenever I am representing my country whether as a team member, alternate member, coach or manager.
- ❖ As a horseperson, I will place my horse's welfare above all other considerations.
- ❖ As a sportsman, I will know and will comply with all the pertinent rules of Equine Canada, Saddle Seat Canada, the International Saddle Seat Equitation Association (ISSEA), and honor the principles of fair play inherent in them. I will place the best interests of the Team above my own and accept the decisions of Saddle Seat Canada Board made in the Team's best interest.
- ❖ As a citizen, I will respect the laws of my own country as well as those of foreign countries in which I may compete. I acknowledge that I also serve as an ambassador for my sport, Saddle Seat Canada and my country. I will always endeavor to reflect credit on them through my conduct.

I understand and accept that serious or repeated transgressions of this code may be grounds for immediate removal from the team and competition. If I were to be dismissed from the team, I and/or my parents/legal guardians will be responsible for reimbursing Saddle Seat Canada for any expenses incurred to date on my behalf including, but not limited to: travel expenses, such as meals and accommodation arrangements and other taxes and deposits as well as equipment, clothing and official gear. I agree to reimburse Saddle Seat Canada for any extra costs if they need to replace me with another rider. Any infraction that results in dismissal while on route to, or during the official International Saddle Seat World Cup Event or on any related tour preceding the competition, shall result in my being barred from the competition in any or all remaining and future events or attendance at any remaining official functions. I and/or my parents/guardians will solely be responsible for securing and paying my return travel to Canada. I understand that my official term as a member of Team Canada and a representative of Canada continues from the date of my selection to the team through to such time as Saddle Seat Canada's next international team is chosen. Up until that time, I understand that I may be requested to attend training, fundraising or public relations appearances on behalf of the Team. Therefore, I commit to exemplary behavior during my full term as a Saddle Seat Canada team member. I acknowledge that it shall be the sole right and responsibility of the Board of Saddle Seat Canada to adjudicate matters pertaining to violations of this code of conduct. My signature below confirms that I have read, understand and agree to the terms of this Application and the Saddle Seat Canada Code of Conduct.

Signature of adult applicants _____

Parent/Guardian to sign for applicants 17 & under _____

Date _____