



The **Jumping Victoria Youth Squad intake** for 2025 will be opening on 4th November 2024. 🐾

The Jumping Victoria Youth Squad is a Jumping Victoria initiative providing a development pathway from our youngest riders through to high performance. This development program brings together the best Children, Junior and Young Rider Jumping athletes from around Victoria to train with well-respected coaches and learn valuable off-horse education. The program run by Jumping Victoria, invites riders <21 years old to apply for selection for the 2025 program. The program has a long history of supporting development of successful world class athletes and developing riders to state and national levels.

The Jumping Victoria Youth Squad caters for Equestrian Victoria young members who wish to pursue the Jumping discipline. The program provides a pathway from our youngest riders (Squadettes) through development squads (80 – 120cm Jumping heights) through to the High Performance squad for the top youth riders in Victoria. The squad provides riders with high quality coaching both on and off their horses together with the opportunity to have a lot of fun and form friendships for life. Riders are also able to join at any of these 3 levels.

The Development Squad program is performance-based, requiring minimum performance standards for each rider/horse combination within the past 12 months. Riders apply for the program and acceptance is confirmed by Equestrian Victoria prior to the commencement of the program.

High Performance squad selection is conducted by independent selectors representing Jumping Victoria and is based on each rider's top performances over the last year. While EV office staff, Jumping Victoria Committee members, and the Squad subcommittee handle squad organisation and communication, they do not participate in the High Performance selection process.

In response to feedback from the 2024 program and to maintain a high standard, minimum performance requirements will apply to the Squadettes program starting in 2025. Squadettes will need to demonstrate independent riding skills and include at least three performances (at either EA or Pony Club events) of jumping rounds over 50cm. This change aims to enhance the quality of the Squadettes program by focusing on jumping skills rather than basic riding skills

2025 is shaping up to be an excellent year with many new initiatives and ideas coming in from the committee to inspire and create a squad that is desired by all. The aim is to inspire these young riders to set goals and create pathways to achieve those goals along with the support needed to succeed in those goals.

### **Squad Training Dates & End of Year Competition**

- Squads will be scheduled on four dates across the year
- This may include weekends and consecutive days during school holidays
- Dates will be published on the EV Jumping calendar
- Ideally Squad dates are scheduled to run on weekends or dates where no other Jumping Victoria events are held (or if required no more than one other event for Jumping Victoria clashes).
- Squad members are expected to attend at least three of the four squads each year.
- All squads to be conducted in Victoria with Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre being the most used venue
- Squad will culminate each year in a End of Year Squad run Competition

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Applications Open: 4<sup>th</sup> November**

**Applications Close: 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Squads Announced: Mid December**

### **SQUAD DATES:**

**January - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - WPNEC**

**May – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> - Boneo**

**June – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> - Boneo**

**August – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - WPNEC**

**Christmas Show - December TBC**

### **Foundational Level: Squadettes**

For 2025 we are introducing a minimum jumping requirement for the Squadette program. This will enable the program to focus on improving jumping skills in our youngest riders, who are already riding independently.

- Open to Equestrian Victoria Members 12 years or under and have completed a minimum of 3 x >50cm courses unassisted at Pony Club or EA in the past 12 months.
- Two sections under Squadettes:
  - 45cm – 60cm
  - 60cm – 80cm
- 4 x training squads.
- Max 4-5 per group.

#### **Format Outline:**

Day 1

- 2 x Group On-Horse Coaching
- 1 x Group Off Horse or Educational Session.
- Saturday night dinner/social activity.

Day 2

- 1 x On-Horse Coaching.

### **Development Level: Development Squads**

- Open to Equestrian Victoria Member 12 years or over who have proven results at >80cm in the past 12 months.

- Approval may be granted for riders under the age of 12 if they meet the criteria for development or high performance squad (age exception application form to be completed)

- The Development squads are separated by heights
- Max 4 to 5 per group

#### **Format Outline:**

Day 1

- 2 x Group On-Horse Coaching
- 1 x Group Off Horse or Educational Session.
- Saturday night dinner/social activity.

Day 2

- 1 x On-Horse Coaching.

### Talent Level: High Performance State Squad

- Applications are invited from Children, Junior and Young Rider Equestrian Victoria Members who meet the minimum criteria
- Riders will be selected for the High Performance State Squad based on the selection criteria.

### Format Outline:

#### Day 1

- 2 x Group On-Horse Coaching
- 1 x Group Off Horse or Educational Session.
- Saturday night dinner/social activity.

#### Day 2

- 1 x On-Horse Coaching.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

#### Changes for 2025

- Updated performance criteria for Children (aligned with changes to the Equestrian Australia jumping heights).
- Riders who are transitioning between Childrens to Junior (the year that the rider turns 15) may apply for selectors consideration with less than Minimum Skill requirement 1.
- Meeting Minimum Skill 1 does not guarantee selection in the High Performance squad. Squad selection is completed by Independent Jumping Victoria selectors.

Performance Level	Minimum Skill Requirement 1	Skill Requirement 2 (if numbers require)	EA Membership Level
<b>Performance Level – State Squad</b>	<p><b>Children:</b> 3 clear rounds in classes at or above 1.10m in height over the previous 12 months</p> <p><b>Junior:</b> 3 clear rounds in classes at or above 1.20m in height over the previous 12 months</p>	<p><b>Children:</b> Top 5 placing in an open class at or above 1.05m in height over the past 12 months.</p> <p><b>Junior:</b> Top 5 placing in an open class at or above 1.15m in height over the past 12 months.</p>	Competitor Member

	<b>Young Rider:</b> 3 clear rounds in classes at or above 1.25m in height over the previous 12 months	<b>Young Rider:</b> Top 5 placing in an open class at or above 1.20m in height over the previous 12 months	
<b>Performance Level – Development Squads</b>	Open to riders 12 years and above.  3 clear rounds in classes at or above 80cm in height over the previous 12 months		Participant Member
<b>Performance Level – Squadettes</b>	Open to riders 12 years and under  3 clear rounds in classes 50cm or above unassisted at either Pony Club or EA Events		Participant Member

### **Correspondance:**

All correspondence for selected squad riders will be via email and Jumping Vic Youth Squad Facebook page – link below..

[\(2\) Facebook](#)

Squad survey forms will be circulated after each squad to gauge feedback and enable the committee to make changes where needed and provide the best squad we can.

### **Volunteering/Helper Duties:**

As per any sporting discipline volunteers are relied upon for ensuring our squad training weekends run smoothly. Part of becoming a squad member both rider and the riders parents commit to providing help at every squad training that they are attending. This help comes in the form of set up and pack up of show jump courses across the rings, catering for the coaches throughout the two training days and helping with any off-horse activity relating to the squad being catering breakfast, lunch or dinners and helping with set up and pack up of rooms/tables/chairs etc...

The end of year show also requires volunteers to run and co-ordinate which involves helper duties such as set up, pack up, poles, pencilling, gate marshalling.

Providing help throughout the year to squad is compulsory and is expected.



To offset the inflationary impact and mitigate cost pressures on riders we will continue to seek opportunities for sponsorship and fundraising. We ask all riders and families to support these activities.

## **2025 SQUAD FEES**

There has been a change in the structure of the squad fees for 2025.

The annual registration fee for 2025 is \$200. This registration fee is paid up front at application time and is non refundable. The registration fee is applied to offset the cost of each of the 4 x squad training sessions. Ie in 2024 \$25 x 4 sessions = \$100. For 2025 \$50 x 4 sessions = \$200. This change will reduce the financial impact of fluctuation/change in rider numbers for each training session and reduce risk of cancellation due to low rider numbers.

For 2025 the Squadette registration and rider fees will be aligned with the development and high performance program. The program will run across two days and group size will be capped at 4-5.

The squad training event fee will be reduced to \$135 including GST. This fee excludes venue fees including horse/rider charges, camping/stabling/yards.