



ONTARIO
EQUESTRIAN
FEDERATION

ONTARIO HAS TALENT PARTICIPANT CRITERIA FOR 2015

DRESSAGE TRAINING

PROGRAM HISTORY

Ontario Has Talent (OHT) was started in 2012 by two mothers Gabriele Sutton and Nathalie Lawson, who saw a need to support up-and-coming Dressage riders identified as the future of equestrian sport. Their goal was to provide top level training opportunities and encourage others to create fundraising initiatives to junior and young riders representing Ontario at the North American Junior and Young Riders Championships (NAJYRC).

In 2015, the Ontario Equestrian Federation received management of the OHT program with the goal of growing the program to include training and funding for all athletes and disciplines representing Ontario at the NAJYRC.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

To build on and grow what has been developed in past years, the program focuses on the sport of Dressage and Dressage training for Ontario NAJYRC candidates (including Eventing). The long term goal, as stated above, is to eventually support training and funding opportunities for all FEI disciplines offered at the NAJYRC competition: dressage, show jumping, eventing, reining and endurance competitors.

There are two themes to the program:

1. Provide training opportunities donated by elite coaches and riders in our Province, to our Ontario junior and young riders as preparation before they compete at the NAJYRC competition. In addition, to provide an opportunity for NAJYRC hopefuls to start training for FEI level competition and to offer riders who have aged out of the NAJYRC event to continue growing as high performance athletes.
2. Raise funds and identify sponsors to help cover the cost of sending Ontario's team to the NAJYRC.

PARTICIPATION

Participation will be offered to riders of different skill levels over the course of (2) day clinics. Since the program is targeted to train and fund NAJYRC athletes, priority will go to these athletes when filling clinic times/spots.

Junior or adult athletes not competing in the NAJYRC, but are training/competing in Level 2 Dressage, or higher will also be invited to participate in the OHT clinics.

The OHT program in 2015 will also be available to members of the Ontario Horse Trials Association (OHTA) who are competing at the Preliminary and Intermediate Level, plan to compete at the NAJYRC competition and are seeking additional dressage coaching.

In order to receive OHT funding, declared NAJYRC Dressage riders will be asked to participate in at least (1) OHT clinic in 2015. The rider's, coaches and parents must be prepared to support the rider's participation in this program, and support the rider's training and goals as identified by the elite clinicians (Gina Smith, Megan Lane and Belinda Trussell in 2015).

If you are not a declared NAJYRC Dressage athlete, but are participating in the OHT clinics, there is no minimum requirement of clinics that must be attended. Since this is a fundraising initiative, we do encourage you to attend as many of the clinics as you can!

FUNDRAISING

All proceeds from the OHT program will go directly to support OHT Dressage rider's competing at the NAJYRC. Program participants (riders) must agree to help fundraise outside for the OHT clinics to contribute to this fundraising initiative – lunch, bake sales, draws for donated items, etc. In addition, riders and their support teams are also asked to help with additional fundraising efforts at their barns, with local sponsors, as possible.

All NAJYRC Dressage riders must reach a minimum \$300 fundraising target for the year. **Note – because this team is not a registered charity, tax receipts for donations cannot be issued.*

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

(1) NAJYRC Dressage Athletes:

- a. NAJYRC Riders receiving fundraising support must have resided in Ontario (principal residence) three years prior to January 1st 2015; and
- b. The rider must have competed in 2014 and/or plan to compete in 2015 at the Junior or FEI Young Rider event; AND
- c. Declare with Dressage Canada to participate in the North American Junior Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC)
- d. Must hold a current OEF, EC and required discipline membership
- e. Must submit an OHT Clinic application form, signed by the rider, coach and parent/guardian 2 weeks prior to their first clinic.
- f. Must raise the targeted fundraising goal of \$300/rider

(2) NAJYRC EVENTING ATHLETES:

- a. The rider must have competed in 2014 and/or plan to compete in 2015 at the Junior or FEI Young Rider event; AND
- b. Declare with Eventing Canada to participate in the North American Junior Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC)
- c. Must hold a current OEF, EC and required discipline membership
- d. Must be competing at the Preliminary and Intermediate Level in 2015
- e. Must submit an OHT Clinic application form, signed by the rider, coach and parent/guardian 2 weeks prior to their first clinic.

(3) Level 2 or Higher Dressage (Non NAJYRC Athletes):

- a. Must hold a current OEF, EC and required discipline membership
- b. The rider must currently compete and/or train in any of the levels listed below:
 - Level 2
 - Level 3
 - Level 4
 - Prix St. George
 - Intermediare 1
 - Intermediare 2
 - Grand Prix
- c. Must submit an OHT Clinic application form, signed by the rider and/or parent/guardian 2 weeks prior to their first clinic.

2. REGISTRATION FOR OHT CLINICS

(1) OHT Rider Registration forms will be available on the OEF website at www.horse.on.ca/programs/ontario-talent in advance of each OHT Clinic.

(2) OHT Clinic spots are limited. Clinic lessons and times will be assigned with the following priority:

- a. Declared NAJYRC Dressage Riders;
- b. Declared NAJYRC Eventing Riders;
- c. Level 2 or Higher Adult and Junior Dressage Riders (Non NAJYRC Athletes)

(3) OHT Clinic Cost:

- a. Declared NAJYRC Dressage Riders: \$100.00
- b. Declared NAJYRC OHTA Riders: \$100.00
- c. Level 2 or Higher - Junior Dressage Riders: \$125.00
- d. Level 2 or Higher - Adult Dressage Riders: \$150.00
- e. Audit Fee: \$30/day or \$50 for full 2-day clinic

3. Distribution of OHT Funding in 2015 - FEI Juniors and FEI Young Riders

(1) Only OHT Riders that have been named to a Dressage Canada NAJYRC team in 2015 will be eligible for funding provided that the OHT Rider:

- a. Competes in the 2015 FEI NAJYRC competition
- b. Has met their fundraising target (minimum \$300 per athlete);
- c. Rides in at least (1) OHT clinic

(2) All funding to eligible NAJYRC Dressage Athletes will be distributed at the 2015 NAJYRC competition.

(3) All OHT clinicians will receive an honorarium, or gift in kind for their support and donation of services to the OHT program.

**If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact
Brandon Hall, Sport Development at the Ontario Equestrian Federation
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