

Lugano/Säffle, January 8:th, 2026

To the National Federation

Dear President

Dear General Secretary

The *Young Riders Academy* continues to develop, and it has now reached its 12th edition.

We are therefore delighted to extend this invitation to your promising riders between the ages of 18 and 23. **We would like to emphasize the importance of candidates' commitment to the programme**, as they will be required to dedicate a significant amount of time to training with one of our trainers, **(requires a commitment of minimum of at least 3 consecutive months)**. The trainers involved have been professionals such as Franke Sloothaak, Marco Kutscher, Jos Lansink, Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, Henk Nooren, Ben, Wim and Gerco Schröder and Jens Fredricson. The assignment of the trainer to each participant will be decided by the selection committee in agreement with the applicant himself.

The purpose of YRA is and will remain to assist in the training of young showjumping talents and to prepare their careers as future professionals in the sport. The project is becoming more and more successful as we never imagined that we would end up with such a scenario and we are grateful to you for your support over the years. We did not expect to live and enjoy so many exciting situations with these athletes, nor to collect such results. Over the past two years, we have achieved several milestones, including the celebration of 10 years of activity and the accomplishment of numerous achievements. Harry Charles was a member of Team GB that secured gold at the most recent Olympic Games in Paris. Richard Vogel has won individual Gold at the last European, while Thibeaup Spitz and Sophie Hinners have achieved outstanding results with teams medals. We really hope that the feeling of satisfaction is the same for you as a federation.

The program will give five to eight promising riders the opportunity to spend several months training and boarding at an established and experienced professional stable. The program will also provide clinics during the year and professional training in areas such as Veterinary, Business & Economics, Sponsorship & Communications, Athlete Wellbeing and Legal Aspects.

Each European Federation is encouraged to enter up to three candidates. Due to the very large number of candidates, we reserve the right to make a "pre-screening" based on age, presentation letter and riding skills as demonstrated in videos attached to each application.

Candidates will be invited to the final selection over two days and will take place at the Peelbergen Riding Centre from 16 to 17 March 2026. The candidates are invited to come with two horses, one horse competing in classes up to at least 145 and one young horse (5 - 7 years).

This type of selection process is necessary to give the selection committee a broader basis for assessing riding ability and to ensure a more objective process.

Further details will be communicated by Mr. Holmberg at the beginning of March 2026 at the latest.

The selection will be based on jumping results (140 -150 classes), availability of horses and candidate's personal profiles. From these entries, a selection committee preliminary consisting of Jeroen Dubbeldam, Otto Becker, Thierry Pomel, Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and Valentina Ottaviani with Sven Holmberg will select approximately 5 - 8 riders.

Entries should be sent before February 21th 2025 following the instructions below.

There are no obligations for the NF and the program **will not conflict with other plans the NF** may have for their young promising riders. On the contrary we are fully prepared to find ways of cooperation both in planning and follow-up.

We kindly ask you to register your candidates by the above-mentioned deadline using the registration form available at this link: <https://forms.gle/kqdvd3tcQBdofzr69>

If you require additional information, please contact Sven Holmberg at: sven@ab-holmbergs.se.

Kind regards

Eleonora Moroni Ottaviani
Athenaeum President

Sven Holmberg
Sport Manager

