



ANNUAL REPORT

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of
Equestrian Nova Scotia will be held on
Sunday, November 16, 2025 at the
Pictou County Wellness Centre, New Glasgow, NS.

Delegate Registration: 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Begins: 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order, including declaration of quorum
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of 2024 AGM
4. Business arising/action items from 2024 AGM Minutes
5. New Business, including:
 - A) Reports of Officers and Committees - included in our Annual Report; also found on Equestrian Nova Scotia website at equestriannovascotia.ca and will be made available at AGM.
 - B) Consideration and Approval of 2024/25 Equestrian Nova Scotia Financial Statements – Financial Summary included in Annual Report. The Financial Report in its entirety will be available at the AGM.
 - C) Presentation of Proposed By-Law Amendments - included in Annual Report and will be made available at AGM.
 - D) Equestrian Nova Scotia Annual Review Presentation
 - E) Election of Directors
6. Adjournment

2024 Equestrian Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting Delta Hotel, Dartmouth, NS November 17, 2024 Unapproved Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call/Welcome

• Called to order at 10:58 am by President Kris Foley.
Present: Voting Members: Kris Foley, Barbie Lewis, Katarin MacLeod, Valerie McDermott, Mary-Clare McLaren, Kim Fortin, Adrienne Smith, Jessica Glassford, Alinta MacLeod, Catherine Lecrone, Julia Cecchetto, Kim Beaton, Meaghan Douglas, Charlotte Grace, Jayme Baker, Angela MacDonald
Staff: Heather Myrer

2. Declaration of Quorum

Based on registration quorum was met.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Adrienne Smith, seconded by Kim Beaton. No contrary minded, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Motion was made to approve the 2023 NSEF AGM Minutes by Mary-Clare McLaren, seconded by Barbie Lewis. No contrary minded, motion carried.

5. Business arising/action items from 2023 Minutes (old business)

- None

6. New Business

a. Reports from Officers and Committees – as submitted and presented. Discussion was had regarding the ENS competitions system. Staff advised that upgrades were scheduled for next season.

Motion to approve all committee reports was made by Barbie Lewis, seconded by Mary-Clare McLaren. No contrary minded, motion carried.

b. Annual Financial Statements Review

The 2023/24 Financial Statements Review was completed by Shellnutt Accountants and presented at the AGM by Treasurer Barbie Lewis, with assistance from Executive Director, Heather Myrer.

Motion to approve the 2023/24 Financial Statements Review was made by Barbie Lewis, seconded by Julia

Cecchetto. No contrary minded, motion carried.

D. Annual Update to Members

Equestrian Nova Scotia's Annual Update/targets were based on our Strategic Vision and were presented by Executive Director, Heather Myrer. A Motion to accept the Equestrian Nova Scotia Annual Update as presented was made by Megan Douglas, seconded by Catherine Lecrone. Motion carried.

e. Election of Directors

Equestrian Nova Scotia's Nominations Committee Chairperson, Val McDermott, presided over the Election of Directors and presented a slate of candidates for consideration as per the nomination process.
Kris Foley, Director of Education, 2-year term
Barbie Lewis, Director of Industry, 2-year term
Catherine LeCrone, Director-at-Large 3-Year term
Julia Cecchetto, Director-at-Large 3-Year term
At a meeting of Member Clubs, Melissa MacDonald was acclaimed as the Director of Clubs – one-year term.
Motion to accept the 2024/2025 Equestrian Directors as elected by the membership was made by Val McDermott, seconded by Adrienne Smith. No contrary minded, motion carried.

A formal acknowledgment and thanks were expressed to Andy Woolaver, Kate Howarth and Mary-Clare McLaren for their dedication and commitment. Ms McLaren was presented with a gift in recognition of her decades of service to the ENS Board.

7. Termination of Meeting

The business of the 2024 Equestrian Nova Scotia AGM was addressed. A Motion to terminate the meeting as of 12:00 p.m. was made by Adrienne Smith. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Val McDermott
Equestrian Nova Scotia
Volunteer Secretary

EQUESTRIAN NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Submitted by Kris Foley

I am continually inspired by the passion and care our community brings to equine welfare. Horses are more than companions or competitors—they're partners who deserve our respect, protection, and advocacy.

This year, Equestrian Nova Scotia has deepened its commitment to equine well-being through meaningful partnerships. Our continued collaboration with Equine



Guelph's E-Campus has opened doors to accessible education, offering numerous free courses and exclusive discounts for ENS members. These resources empower owners, riders, and caregivers to make informed decisions that directly benefit the

horses in their lives.

We're also proud to support the Canadian Horse Identification Program (CHIP) which helps horse owners manage equine health history, disease control, proof of ownership and more. In tandem with the Equine Register Digital Stable App, these initiatives help ensure that horses are protected, accounted for, and treated with dignity throughout their lives. Look for more information on how to access these programs in our HoofPrints publication.

Equine welfare isn't just a goal—it's a shared responsibility. Whether you're in the ring, on the trail, or in the barn, your choices matter. Let's continue to learn, advocate, and lead by example.

Thank you for being part of this compassionate and forward-thinking community. Together, we're shaping a future where every horse is valued, and every voice makes a difference.

Here's to happy trails and well-loved horses.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Submitted by Heather Myrer

2025 was a year of many highlights and accomplishments for our 4,000+ member organization. We also experienced personal loss and have felt so much love and support from members and colleagues from across the country. Your heartfelt kindness was appreciated.

Equine welfare education has become a vital focus over the past year. The shortage of large animal vets, extreme weather events and general thirst for equine health and welfare knowledge are the driving forces behind our commitment to provide enhanced educational opportunities in 2026 and beyond!

As you will read, we had a remarkable year celebrating our members' successes and supporting educational and equine welfare initiatives such as our Large Animal Rescue Emergency Awareness Training course and participating in the NS Stampede, where GITty, our equine gastrointestinal tract model was highlighted.

Scotia Series continues to grow, including a significant increase in dressage and eventing participation with the hard work of competition managers across the province. At time of publication, we will have held one of two provincial championships in partnership with the Cape Breton Western Riders Association. Many thanks to the CBWR team for their efforts in making this a successful event. Round two will take place October 3-5 in Windsor!

As we focus on inclusive and barrier-free access to our programs, we are proud to offer care-giver funding, Kidsport

Equestrian funding, diversity and inclusion training and funding opportunities, on-line program options and payment plans that support the needs of you, our member. If you ever have difficulty in participating in any of our programs, please reach out and we will do our best to assist you!

It's membership renewal time! Remember to renew before your membership expires. Renewal means you retain your important insurance benefits, and have access to events, educational and funding opportunities, participation awards and enjoy the many benefits of membership. I encourage you to invite friends and family to become a member and be part of our growing network. Remember to give them your membership number to get your referral credit!

We are a small and mighty operational team! My sincere thanks is extended to Sheila Currie and Charlotte Grace, along with our summer student, Chloe Coles, for their dedication, commitment, and hard work. We also have amazing support on a contractual basis from Helen Smith and Roz Moskovits, our Performance Program coaches, and Jennifer Lewis, our Competition support person. Everything we do is made possible by you, our members, our clubs, our sponsors, our volunteers, and our Board of Directors, especially our President, Kris Foley, who guides us daily with her leadership! Have a safe and wonderful rest of 2025 and we look forward to serving you in 2026!

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT – By Adrienne Smith

The interactive Horseplay Rewards Program has been in use for a while now, allowing you to track your equine related activity while accumulating points towards rewards. So far, sixty-six members have collectively logged 1,879 kilometres of riding/driving in the app! Sign up today and join in on the fun!

We continue to promote our educational programs such as Learn to Ride/Drive, P'Tit Trot, Rookie Rider, Safe Sport. Information for those both new to the sport or interested in Long Term Equestrian Development will find that our website a wealth of information on these topics and has links to many more, such as Horse Welfare. Keep an eye on our E-News and website for upcoming courses partnered with Equine Guelph's Horse Portal.

As your rep on the NS trails Board, I attended several meetings throughout the year. We are excited about the We Share Trails campaign and we advocate to have

equine safety on the trails included. Take a look at their website to learn more about this important program. There are stickers and posters available to promote this initiative in your region. Please use your safety equipment and conduct yourself in an appropriate and safe manner while enjoying these riding opportunities. We all need to respect each other on the trails. Get to know your community trail groups and offer to help.

2025 has been a challenging year for recreational riders due to the extreme drought conditions and bans on forest travel. Some areas have had these restrictions lifted and we are hoping for more rain to allow the rest of the province to follow. Imagine Nova Scotians

praying for rain! Be aware of hunting season and wear appropriate safety orange for visibility.

For more information, feel free to contact nsefservices@sportnovascotia.ca or 1-800-263-2410. Wishing you many happy and safe rides or drives!



DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION REPORT – By Kris Foley

This past year we offered several professional development initiatives for our coaches. In May, we hosted the Cultural Awareness Workshop and the Coach Symposium, both held virtually. In April, we organized the First Aid Recertification. Additionally, over nineteen coach and instructor candidates participated in the inaugural Coach Cohort, where they networked and collaborated towards NCCP certification. Participants hailed from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Yukon, and Quebec.

We were pleased to award a High School Credit candidate, Lexie Joy, with her English Instructor Certification in May. Morgan Cloutier also earned her stripes as an English Instructor this spring! Congratulations are extended to both Lexie and Morgan for this accomplishment!

We were delighted to welcome four new Scotia Series judges this year:

Gillian Allan - Pleasure Driving and Driving Trials

Alison Winters - General Performance

Sharron Piazza - Jumper, I Can Event, Dressage (English

and Western)

Natalie Bova - Hunter, Jumper, Equitation

We are eager to continue our journey and strive towards new achievements.

With support from Equestrian Canada's National Education Fund and the Government of NS, we were able to support five Coach Developers and our performance coaches to attend the EC Coach Developer Symposium in Calgary this past September. Many changes have been made to the Learn to Ride/Drive Programs and Rookie Rider Program, and our CD's are integral in facilitating these changes to our coaches and instructors in NS. Please stay tuned for clinic announcements coming to various regions of the province in 2026.

All in all, it's been a memorable year full of learning, growth, and forging new connections from coast to coast. Looking ahead, we have a comprehensive calendar of events planned. We will be hosting the Coach Symposium, holding First Aid Recertification, and offering an Officials Mega-clinic and the next Coach Cohort —see you at next year's events!

DIRECTOR OF CLUBS REPORT – By Melissa MacDonald

Fourteen member clubs took advantage of our membership benefits and opportunities this year. These clubs were offered funding initiatives, help with governance, and any assistance they needed with the promotion of their events. We have seen some growth this year when we established IDEA which helped promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into the horse community. It has been fantastic to see clubs,

riding establishments and our organizations grow because of this program. Introducing athletes to this sport and being able to watch it grow is very fulfilling. The 2026 Club applications are open and available on our website. For more information on Club Membership, please contact the team at nsefservices@sportnovascotia.ca. Coaches have done a fantastic job this year mentoring their students and helping them advance in their respectful division. Coaches play such a significant role in making sure our students are given guidance and more confidence to push their limits in this sport. Thank you to all coaches for your time and endless dedication to your

students and this sport.

Our volunteers work hard within their clubs and organizations so that athletes can grow in this sport both with their horses and with their fellow competitors. I want to personally thank all the volunteers that work countless hours in hosting competitions, running competitions or for the enjoyment of riding. Our sport grows every year, and I am very proud to be part of it with you.

Our Scotia Series continues to grow and give provincial recognition to our athletes. The HorseSport.Pro on-line competition system allows competitions, both big and small, to competently handle entries, schedules, officials, and essential competition information. If your club is interested in hosting/seeking information on a Scotia Series competition, please contact Charlotte at nsefservices@sportnovascotia.ca. I have heard great feedback from clubs this year about having another successful year. Again, I want to thank all of our clubs, coaches, athletes and volunteers on a fantastic year. I know 2026 has great things in store for us all.

2026 Club Applications NOW OPEN

Club Membership Benefits

- Access to Funding Initiatives
- Governance Assistance
- Event Promotion
- Website Listing

Scan QR Code
to Join



DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY REPORT – By Barbie Lewis

It is hard to believe we are already near the end of 2025. How fast this year has passed. The song “Here We Go Again” applies to Nova Scotia again this year, what with Forest fires, drought, and very hot weather – WOW! Hopefully, we will all get rain (and lots of it) soon. With support from Equestrian Canada's Emergency Fund, we were once again able to fund those members who were impacted by extreme weather events.

I would like to take the time to talk about the biggest key point for us this year. This was the Large Animal Emergency Response Awareness Level Course that we hosted in partnership with Equine Guelph, Whinny Hill Equestrian Centre, Ruth Claus (a tremendous volunteer), supported by our friends at ACERA Insurance Services. Thanks for the great job, everyone!

The course had forty-three participants who travelled from all over the province, including firefighters, EMS responders, and, of course, horse owners. The course was well received and the feedback, very positive. We are already working with Equine Guelph to plan more courses

including some intensive training for first responders!

This past fall, we attended the NS Stampede as a vendor! Many horse lovers stopped by our exhibit that included member information, Rookie Riders Radish the horse, and our digestive tract model. We look forward to 2026 as we plan for more educational opportunities!

EQUINE WELFARE RESOURCES AND LINKS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
equestriannovascotia.ca
or scan QR Code



EQUESTRIAN NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIONS REPORT – Submitted by Lesley Langley

It has been a great year for competitions across the province, with strong participation and enthusiasm from athletes, coaches, and organizers alike. Twenty-six Scotia Series competitions, along with a second year of I Can Event (ICE) added to our series, have been held successfully, providing valuable opportunities for athletes at all levels to showcase their skills and progress.

Horse welfare has remained a top priority, and our judges always keep this at the forefront during competitions. Please remember that welfare goes beyond food, water, and shelter—it also means ensuring the horse is fit for the discipline in which it is competing. Properly fitting tack is equally important, as poor fit can cause discomfort, pain, or even long-term damage to a horse. If you are ever excused from a class, or if a judge raises a concern, please take their comments seriously. If you disagree, we encourage you to consult with a professional to ensure your horse's health and safety remain the top priority.

We continue to promote and encourage up and coming officials to take the training to become provincially sanctioned. This is a great training ground for those wishing to move along the pathway and become an EC official. More importantly, recognized officials are insured, and they make

our sport safer!

Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming Scotia Series Provincial Championships. Senior Hack and Western General Performance and Showmanship divisions will take place in partnership with the final Cape Breton Western Riders competition of the year. Junior Hack, Dressage, Hunter/Jumper, I Can Event (ICE) and Driving divisions will be held at the Windsor Exhibition Grounds. As always, these events cannot succeed without volunteers. If you are able to lend a hand, we would love to see you at one of the venues.

What a wonderful horse community we have in Nova Scotia. With the drought and forest fires throughout the province, it has been heartwarming to hear of the help and assistance being given. Many people are offering resources and helping find solutions for those affected. This generosity and spirit of support remind us that our community is not only strong in competition, but also in care for one another and for our horses.

If you are interested in joining our Scotia Series Provincial Circuit, please reach out to the office at nsef@sportnovascotia.ca. We'd love to have you join us in 2026!

FINANCE REPORT

EQUESTRIAN NOVA SCOTIA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

Summary only provided by Shellnutt Accountants - Full review will be available in AGM Package

	2025	2024
CONTRIBUTIONS		
Technical/Competitive Programs	\$ 67,049	\$ 119,022
Organization Operations	478,370	348,344
Participatory Programs	16,966	20,310
Investment revenue (loss)	47,295	4,882
	<u>569,680</u>	<u>492,538</u>
EXPENSES		
Technical/Competitive Programs	\$ 169,771	\$ 112,369
Organization operations	315,032	332,324
Participatory Programs	48,963	48,198
	<u>533,766</u>	<u>492,891</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE \$	<u>35,914</u>	<u>\$ (353)</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>289,268</u>	<u>289,621</u>
<u>Change in restricted assets (Equine Education)</u>	<u>(2,154)</u>	<u>0</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 323,028</u>	<u>\$ 289,621</u>

Equestrian Nova Scotia Proposed By-Law Changes - November 2025

By-Law Section	Current By-Law	Proposed By-Law	Rationale
Throughout the By-Laws Document	Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation	Equestrian Nova Scotia	To reflect name change
Throughout the By-Laws Document	NSEF	ENS	To reflect name change
Section 1 - 1.2 c)	<i>Auditor</i> means an individual appointed by the Board to audit the books, accounts, and records of the Society	<i>Auditor</i> means an individual/firm appointed by the Board to perform an assurance engagement of the books, accounts, and records of the Society	To reflect audit/annual review as per 6.3 Auditors and Financial Statements; annual reviews are completed; require an audit at the direction of the board, from time to time
Section 2 - 2.8	The Board of Directors may, by resolution passed by not less than 75% of the Directors present and entitled to vote at a general or special meeting of the Directors, request any Member to resign from ENS; will mail to the Member in question a copy of the request by registered mail at the address last entered for the Member in the Register of Members. The Member concerned may, within thirty days (30) of the date of such resolution, request a hearing on the matter before the Board of Directors. In the circumstance, the Directors will be notified at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the date and place of the hearing. If the Member concerned, fails to resign or request a hearing within thirty (30) days of the date of the original resolution, the Secretary will, without further notice, cancel the membership of the Member.	The Board of Directors may, by resolution passed by not less than 75% of the Directors present and entitled to vote at a general or special meeting of the Directors, request any Member to resign from ENS; will mail to the Member in question a copy of the request by registered mail at the address last entered for the Member in the Register of Members. The Member concerned may, within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of such resolution, request a hearing on the matter before the Board of Directors. In the circumstance, the Directors will be notified at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the date and place of the hearing. If the Member concerned, fails to resign or request a hearing within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the original resolution, the Secretary will, without further notice, cancel the membership of the Member.	To reflect calendar days, for clarity
Section 3 - 3.2	Notice of the Annual General Meeting of members will be made not less than 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting, and the nature of such business, shall be given to every member by ordinary mail, electronic mail or public notice.	Notice of the Annual General Meeting of members will be made not less than 14 calendar days prior to the Annual General Meeting, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting, and the nature of such business, shall be given to every member by ordinary mail, electronic mail or public notice.	To reflect calendar days, for clarity
Section 3 - 3.3	Not less than 14 days' prior notice of a Special Meeting, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting, and, in case of special business, the nature of such business, shall be given to every member by ordinary mail, electronic mail and/or public notice.	Not less than fourteen (14) calendar days' prior notice of a Special Meeting, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting, and, in case of special business, the nature of such business, shall be given to every member by ordinary mail, electronic mail and/or public notice.	To reflect calendar days, for clarity
Section 4 - 4.1	At a club meeting prior to the Annual General meeting (either in-person or conference call) one (1) Director representing Member Clubs will be nominated to serve on the ENS Board of Directors.	To Preside for a two-year (2) staggered term, not exceeding two consecutive terms: e) Safe Sport Officer	New role created to better reflect the growing needs of the organization's governance. Clubs will be represented via the Recreation portfolio.
Section 4 - 4.1	To preside for a three-year (3) staggered term, six (6) Directors at Large, where at each Annual General Meeting, two (2) Directors-at-large are elected.	f) To preside for a three-year (3) staggered term, six (6) Directors at Large, not exceeding two consecutive terms, where at each Annual General Meeting, two (2) Directors-at-large are elected.	Clarification on term limits. As all director positions have a two-term limit.
Section 4 - 4.5	A Director may be removed by Resolution of the Board or by Special Resolution of the voting Members in a Meeting of the Members, provided the Director has been given fourteen (14) days' notice and the opportunity to be present and to be heard at the meeting where a Resolution or Special Resolution is put to a vote.	A Director may be removed by Resolution of the Board or by Special Resolution of the voting Members in a Meeting of the Members, provided the Director has been given fourteen calendar (14) days' notice and the opportunity to be present and to be heard at the meeting where a Resolution or Special Resolution is put to a vote.	To reflect calendar days, for clarity
Section 4 - 4.6	Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the secretary on the direction of the Chair and will be held at least quarterly and as often as the business of ENS may require	Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called on direction of the Chair and will be held at least quarterly and as often as the business of ENS may require	Removes a role of secretary as this has become an administrative role
Section 4 - 4.14	The Board of Directors will have the following standing committees: Finance, Competitions, Education, and Recreation, and may appoint other standing committees, as they deem necessary.	The Board of Directors will have a Finance and Governance committee and may appoint other standing committees, as they deem necessary.	Allows for Board to ensure there is always a Finance and Governance committee and all other committees will be appointed/directed by the Board as written in 4.14 Committees and Regulations
Section 5 - 5.2	The Secretary will ensure the filing of the annual requirements with the office of the Registrar, and with the Registrar (a) within fourteen (14) days of their election or appointment, a list of Directors with their addresses, occupations and dates of appointment or election; and (b) a copy of every special resolution within fourteen (14) days after the resolution is passed.	The Secretary will ensure the filing of the annual requirements with the office of the Registrar, and with the Registrar (a) within fourteen (14) calendar days of their election or appointment, a list of Directors with their addresses, occupations and dates of appointment or election; and (b) a copy of every special resolution within fourteen (14) calendar days after the resolution is passed.	To reflect calendar days, for clarity
Section 5 - 5.3	An Officer may be removed by Resolution of the Board or by Special Resolution of the voting Members in a Meeting of the Members, provided the Officer has been given fourteen (14) days' and the opportunity to be present and to be heard at the meeting where a Resolution or Special Resolution is put to a vote.	An Officer may be removed by Resolution of the Board or by Special Resolution of the voting Members in a Meeting of the Members, provided the Officer has been given fourteen (14) calendar days and the opportunity to be present and to be heard at the meeting where a Resolution or Special Resolution is put to a vote.	To reflect calendar days, for clarity
Section 6 - 6.3	A copy of this report will be filed with the Registrar within 14 days after the Annual General Meeting of the Members in each year, in accordance with Section 19 of the Societies Act, signed by two ENS Directors .	A copy of this report will be filed with the Registrar within 14 calendar days after the Annual General Meeting of the Members in each year, in accordance with Section 19 of the Societies Act, signed by two ENS Directors .	To reflect calendar days, for clarity
Section 6 - 6.4	The books and records of the Federation may be inspected by any Member at any reasonable time within two days prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Federation at the registered office of the Federation.	By appointment, the books and records of ENS may be inspected by any Member during business hours, with the exception of the seven days prior to the ENS Annual General Meeting, at the registered ENS office	To clarify time and days that a member can visit office for such reason



Nominations Committee Report

October 28, 2025

As per Bylaw Article 33, a notice had been posted for the membership to volunteer or be nominated for the open positions on the Board of Directors. The closing date for applications was October 17th, 2025.

As of October 17th, 2025, there has been expressed interest in all vacant positions. as outlined in the table below.

The Director of Clubs nominee was approved by Club member directors at the November 10, 2025 Club Meeting and will be ratified at the AGM.

2025 Nominations Slate		
Position	Term	Nominee
Director of Competitions	2-year term	Valerie McDermott
Director of Recreation	2-year term	Adrienne Smith
Director of Clubs	1-year term	Melissa MacDonald
Director-at-Large	3-year term	Laura Kelland-May
Director-at-Large	3-year term	Lindsay Bradshaw

This slate will be presented for acceptance to the membership at our AGM on Sunday, November 16th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Nominations Committee Chair
Kris Foley



Board of Directors Election 2025

Position Roles

Director of Recreation

Structure

- **One representative elected by the general membership at Equestrian NS's annual general meeting for a Two-Year term, to a maximum of two terms.**

Role

- Be the “voice” of recreation in the province;
- Represents Equestrian Nova Scotia on the Nova Scotia Trails Board
- Provide support to Recreational Riders/Drivers in promoting EQUESTRIAN NOVA SCOTIA Programs via emails, newsletter articles, etc.;
- Keep a portfolio of Equestrian Nova Scotia Membership Applications, program/service brochures to have on hand and distributed when the opportunity arises;
- Assist staff with annual Trail Ride/Drive even and other events as they occur under this portfolio;
- Reports to the Board, submit annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and promote Equestrian Nova Scotia in a positive and informative manner

Director of Competitions

Structure

- One representative elected by the general membership at Equestrian NS's annual general meeting for a Two-Year term, to a maximum of two years.

Role

- To be the “voice” of competitions at the Equestrian Nova Scotia Board Level;
- Chair Equestrian Nova Scotia’s Competition committee;
- To bring concerns from the NS Competition community to Equestrian Nova Scotia;
- Assist staff and ad hoc committees with Scotia Series Rules Review and operating procedures;
- Work closely with Staff to develop and implement our Scotia Series Officials Program;
- To attend Equestrian Nova Scotia competition managers meetings;
- Reports to the Board, submit annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and promote Equestrian Nova Scotia in a positive and informative manner

Director of Clubs

Structure

- One Member Club Director is elected by the Directors of member clubs/associations prior to the AGM, to preside on the Equestrian Nova Scotia Board of Directors for a one-year term.

Role

- Be the “voice” for member clubs;
- Chair the Equestrian Nova Scotia Member Club Meetings;
- Promote Equestrian Nova Scotia Programs to clubs via emails, social media, etc.;
- Keep a portfolio of Equestrian Nova Scotia Membership Applications, program/service brochures to have on hand and distribute when the opportunity arises;
- Reports to the Board, submit annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and promote Equestrian Nova Scotia in a positive and informative manner

Director-at-Large (two members elected)

Structure

- Two positions elected by the general membership at Equestrian NS's annual general meeting for a three-Year term, to a maximum of two terms.

Role

- Member of Equestrian Nova Scotia’s sub-committees, when required;
- Use skill set to contribute to the programs and services Equestrian Nova Scotia offers to its members;
- Keep a portfolio of Equestrian Nova Scotia Membership Applications, program/service brochures to have on hand and distribute when the opportunity arises
- Reports to the Board, submits annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and promote Equestrian Nova Scotia in a positive and informative manner.

2025/2026 Board of Directors Slate of Nominees for Election at Equestrian Nova Scotia's AGM.

Adrienne Smith	Director of Recreation	2-year term
Valerie McDermott	Director of Competitions	2-year term
Melissa MacDonald	Director of Clubs	1-Year term
Director-at-Large	3-year term	Laura Kelland May
Director-at-Large	3-year term	Lindsay Bradshaw

Adrienne Smith - Nomination for Director of Recreation (re-offer)

Over many years Adrienne has served on the Equestrian NS Board of Directors, including as Vice President and President, along with serving on various committees. Adrienne is a voting member for Equestrian Canada representing Category B - the Provincial and Territorial Sport Organizations. She brings experience in many aspects of our equestrian community to the board with experience as an official, and an NCCP certified Western Competition Coach. Adrienne also enjoys recreational riding with friends and family.

Adrienne is a retired executive secretary and owns a small boarding and lesson barn and is heavily involved in 4-H at the community and provincial levels. Adrienne feels that her equestrian knowledge and organizational skills would be an asset to the ENS board. It is important to have continuity going forward with the goals of the board, as well as to have new and fresh input. A good balance is an advantage.

Equestrian is a lifestyle for Adrienne, and she appreciates the opportunity to put her name forward to continue to support ENS as a board member.



Valerie McDermott – Nomination for Director of Competitions

Valerie has vast experience with non-profit board governance having held many board positions in the last 16 years (President, Vice-President, Director of Clubs and Recreation) and serving many years volunteering on committees working to progress the rules and safety of our sport.

In the last 20+ years in the NS equestrian community, she has served in many roles including NS Pony Club District Commissioner for Avon and Five Fires branches. And Regional Chair for NS.

Valerie has recently completed a certificate in Team building and Group Dynamics from St Mary's University and was awarded the Coaching and Mentoring award with Defense Construction where she works as both a Coordinator, Professional Service Contracts and the Coordinator, Security.

Valerie has been a recreational rider since the age of 10 and has shared the passion for horses with her family.



Melissa MacDonald– Nomination for Director of Clubs

Melissa has been involved in the equestrian sport in Cape Breton for many years. Melissa has shown competitively throughout the Maritimes in years past. Melissa has sat on the board of Directors for the Cape Breton Western for 24 years holding positions such as the Treasure and President Position. Three years ago, Melissa and other community members in Cape Breton formed the Cape Breton Exhibition Society and purchased the Exhibition Grounds in North Sydney. Melissa is the 2nd Vice President on this board and is still very active in the horse community. Melissa and her board have rejuvenated the exhibition grounds and have been integral in maintaining a strong sense of equestrian community in the CBRM.

Melissa is pleased to be representing her peer group of clubs once again.



Lindsay Bradshaw – Nomination for Director at Large

Lindsay brings a well-rounded and extensive background in the equine industry, with hands-on experience as a breeder, competitor, and coach. Her practical knowledge spans horse care, training, breeding, competition standards, and facility management. She has coordinated equestrian events and worked closely with diverse stakeholders across the community, demonstrating strong organizational, leadership, and communication skills. Lindsay has trained and developed top-level riders and horses, and has experience riding on national teams including the Canadian Talent Squad.

Lindsay is passionate about fostering a supportive and inclusive equestrian environment and is committed to fair representation, clear governance, and the development of programs that benefit riders, owners, and clubs throughout Nova Scotia. Lindsay is passionate about advancing equestrian sport through education, development programs, and mentorship. Lindsay has served on the Board of the NS Hunter Jumper Association for the past 5 years.

**Laura Kelland May**

Laura has been actively involved in the sport from grassroots to international levels, with a background in horse care, competition, community engagement, and event organization. Her professional skills in project management, planning, and communication support collaborative and informed decision-making.

Laura has professional experience in project management, planning and communication gives me the ability to analyze, discuss and collaborate with others to make informed decisions. She is committed to dedicating her time and expertise to support the association's goals and represent the interests of the Nova Scotia equestrian community.

Laura currently holds credentials as a Senior Steward (Jumper/Hunter) with Equestrian Canada (2016–present) and as a Senior Judge (Jumper, Hunter, Equitation) since 1990, reflecting her long-standing commitment to equestrian sport governance and standards.

