



SELECTION POLICY FOR PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE **ALLTECH FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES 2010**



General

The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) will be held in Kentucky from the 25th September – 10th October 2010. The FEI Para-Equestrian Committee and General Regulations governs the rules and regulations of the Paralympic competition. The process for the selection of the squad and the team conform to the requirements of British Dressage (BD) and the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and is prepared in consultation with the Equestrian World Class Programme (WCP) Staff.

Aims

The aims of the Selectors are to;

- a) Send a squad which will be capable of maximising the number of medals won, particularly Gold medals at WEG 2010.
- b) Develop a squad for the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

Selection

The Performance Manager (PM) will make sure that all riders available for selection have British citizenship and have been granted a licence by the BEF to compete in International Events according to Article 134 of the FEI Regulations, that all horses available for selection have correct ownership (in accordance with FEI Para-Equestrian Rules) and that neither horses nor riders are for any reason not allowed to take part in the forthcoming Championship under FEI, BEF or BD Rules.

A squad (likely to be 7 in number but this will be confirmed nearer selection based on available quota places and budget) will be selected, of which four will make up the Team (reserves for the Squad may also be nominated). For the Team, 1 rider must be Grade I or II. A maximum of 3 riders from Great Britain can compete in each sport class (Grade). Those Squad riders who are not in the Team will compete against the Team members in the Individual competitions.

The selection process for the Squad will adhere to, and take into consideration, the following criteria:

- Selection is open to all Para-Equestrian Dressage classified members of BD who are a minimum of 16 years of age by 31st December 2010.
- In order to achieve the Aims the identification and composition of teams from other competing nations may be taken into account.

- Riders must demonstrate the required depth of equestrian knowledge needed to ride and train horses to achieve world-class results.
- All horses considered for selection will be thoroughly assessed for fitness and soundness by the Equine Sports Science and Medicine Department (SSM) of the BEF and WCP.
- All riders considered for selection will be assessed for their physical fitness by the WCP Human SSM Staff, taking into consideration their disability grading.
- Riders must compete on the horse(s) they wish to be considered for selection at the BD Para-Equestrian Summer Championship Qualifiers, which will be used as a vehicle for assessing riders and horses. (Dates will be published on the BD website and will be sent to riders eligible for selection).
- All horses must be drug free at the time of competitions as required by the FEI Equine Anti Doping and Medication Control Rules (EADMC).
- All horses must have a valid and up to date FEI passport with vaccinations recorded according to FEI Rules.
- World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) Selection is subject to compliance with BD, BEF, UK Sport and FEI Rules on medication control for Human and Equine.
- 'Team Spirit' is of the utmost importance within the Squad of riders and support staff. It is expected of all those involved to show a high level of commitment and bonding in all aspects of training and competitions. Riders must have the stamina and mental toughness to cope with the stresses of travelling, training and competing.
- The financial circumstances of riders considered for selection will not in any way influence the selection procedure.
- Above all, selection will be largely based on consistent results achieved by riders at National and International competitions. One outstanding result will not lead to automatic selection.
- Riders seeking selection for the Alltech FEI WEG are strongly encouraged to discuss their competitive plans with the Chairman of Selectors and the National Coach.
- Riders, their grooms and their "home team" are expected to abide by the WCP Charter. The Charter lays down expectations of all involved and required standards of behaviour.

Qualifying and Selection Competitions

The Selectors will place emphasis on results achieved during BD Para-Equestrian Dressage Winter Championships, The British Para Championships at Hickstead and the Summer National Championships (see BD website for dates) which will be held from January to July 2010.

Rider/horse combinations will be expected to attend a minimum of four such competitions of which at least two must be Para National Championship Qualifiers. However, the Chairman of Selectors has the right to give dispensation to rider/horse combinations on an individual basis if such a decision contributes to the Aims of this Selection process.

Some riders may also be asked to compete at Moorsele, Belgium, 16-18 April 2010 and or Mannheim, Germany, 3-4 May 2010. Any riders so doing will only need to compete in three of the National competitions (see above for details).

All rider/horse combinations in contention for selection MUST qualify for and compete at The British Para Championships at Hickstead, 23-24 June 2010. (Riders should refer to the BD rulebook / website for details of the points based qualification process for this Championship). The Selectors reserve the right to give a rider/horse dispensation not to compete at this competition if such a decision contributes to the Aim of this Selection process.

In addition the rider/horse combinations that compete at Hickstead will be expected to compete at Hartpury 14-16 July 2010. The selectors reserve the right to give a rider/horse dispensation not to compete at this competition if such a decision contributes to the Aim of this Selection process.

For avoidance of doubt, the requirement to compete at Hickstead and Hartpury is in ADDITION to the requirement to compete in a minimum of four of the National competitions.

Selectors would expect combinations of riders and horses to score a minimum of 70% in all Grades in BD qualifying competitions in order to be considered for selection. However, in exceptional circumstances this requirement may be waived or modified in order to increase the likelihood of achieving the stated Aims.

Squad Announcements

The announcement of the riders selected to compete at Hickstead on 23-24 June 2010 will be made following Mannheim on 3-4 May 2010. The Selectors retain the right to amend this list up until the competition. The final Squad for the FEI Alltech WEG will be selected on or about the 16 July 2010. Reserves for the Squad may be announced at the same time. The Selectors may announce the Team at this time but confirmation of the Team will not be announced until after the first Veterinary Inspection (Trot Up) at the Alltech FEI WEG.

Substitution

The Selectors may substitute a Squad member for a Reserve between the announcement of the Squad (on or about the 16th July) until the departure of the horses from Great Britain for Kentucky. However, the reason for a substitution must be only because either the rider is medically unable to compete or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution if the performance of the Squad member's horse has deteriorated to such an extent that for the success of the squad a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time.

In the case of a rider being considered medically unable to compete the decision will be made following an examination by the Equestrian Team Doctor and in consultation with the National Coach. In the case of the horse, the horse will be examined by the Para-Equestrian team Veterinary Surgeon who may request a second opinion from another World Class Programme approved Veterinarian. The Veterinarian(s) will then advise the Selectors of the fitness of the horse to compete without imparting confidential information (unless the rider approves the release of such information).

For 2010 reserves will be listed as rider/horse partnerships. The Selectors / Performance Manager / National Coach will not seek to match riders to horses that the rider has not competed on. Therefore, if a selected riders' horse goes lame after selection they will not have a horse found for them.

The Selectors

The Selectors have been chosen for their specific expertise and in order to have a panel with a depth of experience.

All Selectors (including the Chairman) will be appointed by BD in consultation with the Performance Director. They will have the knowledge and experience in dressage, disability sports and international competition to select championship teams and will be free from vested interests.

The Performance Manager (PM) will attend all selection meetings to inform, advise and assist the Selection Panel. He will not have a vote although he will have the power to veto the Selection Panel's decision. This will safeguard the close relationship between PM and the riders. The Chairman of Selectors and the two other Selectors will have equal voting rights. The Selectors will only announce their decision once they are all in complete agreement. The Performance Director (PD) will also have the right to attend all Selection meetings but will not have a vote or power of veto.

Selection Panel

Consisting of:

- Juliet Seal (Voting Member) Chairman
- Michel Assouline (Voting Member) National Coach
- Carolyn Gardiner (Voting Member)
- David Hunter (Non Voting Member but power of Veto) PM Para-Equestrian Dressage and Team Manager
- Will Connell (Non Voting Member, Observer) PD BEF

Modification/Exceptional Circumstances

The right is reserved that in exceptional circumstances such as injury or illness the selection policy can be waived or modified in order to enhance the likelihood of achieving the stated goals.

Doping

Selection is subject to compliance with BD, BEF, UK Sport and FEI Rules on medication and doping control for Human and Equine.

Changes in Policy

The Selectors will have the right to amend or change selection policies where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Selection Policy. These changes and amendments, having been discussed and agreed with the PD and PM, will be clearly communicated to all parties.

Cancellation/Postponement

In the event of cancellation all participating riders will be notified straight away. In the event of postponement a situation might arise where a new and/or different squad needs to be selected in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection followed.

Force Majeur

If, for some reason beyond the NGB's control e.g. collapse of World Class funding, disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the decision may be made to either change the selection policy or procedure which might include withdrawing the British Para-Equestrian Dressage Team; this decision would be made following consultation between the BD Board, BEF Board and PD.

Discretion

The Selectors are entitled, within the selection procedure, to use discretion in exceptional circumstances to select combinations onto teams provided they can demonstrate that any discretion used was arrived at through a process of integrity where the information used and procedures taken were perfectly reasonable and justifiable. Furthermore, any such 'discretion' will be fully documented and the BEF PD will act as arbiter.

Consultation

This Para-Equestrian Dressage Selection Policy is formulated in agreement and consultation with the BPA, BD Board, Selectors, Riders, Owners, the BEF PD and the PM.

Publication

The Selection Policy will be placed on the BD Website and a copy will be sent to all international riders. Copies will be available on request from the BD office. Any changes to the policy will be communicated in the same way.

Enquires

Enquires about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or on the telephone to the BD office, Chairman of Selectors or PM.

Points of Contact

The key points of contact relating to this selection policy are the Chairman of Selectors and the PM.

Appeals

Riders have the right to appeal against the decision of the Selectors. Appeals must be made in writing within 48 hours of the announcements. Appeals must be sent to the BD Chief Executive. If the Chief Executive is not able to satisfy the appellant's concerns the appeal will be forwarded to the BEF. The rider also has the right to appeal directly to the BEF. The BEF Appeals Procedure is set out in the BEF Rule Book.