



## BRITISH DRESSAGE

### JUNIOR / YOUNG RIDERS SELECTION POLICY 2012

The British Dressage Junior & Young Rider Selection Policy is formulated in agreement and consultation with the British Dressage Board, the International Teams Director, Selectors and Advisors.

#### AIMS OF THE SELECTION POLICY

The aims of the Selection Policy are:-

- i) To select Junior and Young Rider Squads who will be invited to official test riding/training sessions with International Judges.
- ii) To identify talented combinations that will at the Selector's discretion and where possible be given opportunities to compete in international competitions.
- iii) To select a team that will achieve the best possible results for Great Britain at the Junior and Young Rider European Championships to be held on 8 – 15 July at Berne, Switzerland.

**Note:** Any combination travelling abroad to compete for experience, and at their own expense, will have to be working at the required level, achieving the necessary percentages, as set out in this Policy and with the Selectors' permission. Riders must be licensed to compete and both the rider and horse currently registered with the FEI.

#### SELECTION PANEL

All Selectors will be appointed by the British Dressage Board of Directors. The Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector will work with the International Teams Director. The Selectors will have the knowledge and experience required to effectively select Championship teams and will be as free from all vested interests/conflicts of interest as is possible.

The BD CEO will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise.

The Chief Junior/Young Rider Selector and the Junior/Young Rider Selectors together comprise "the Selectors".

The Selection Panel will comprise the following:-

#### Junior & Young Rider Selectors

Chief Junior/YR Selector	Ms Judy Firmston-Williams
Selector	Mrs Islay Auty
Selector	Miss Jill Day

Each member of the panel has equal voting rights.

## **Other contributors**

International Teams Director - Mr Nick Burton.

Responsible for international strategy and for communicating to the British Dressage Board of Directors on all matters relating to International Teams (including Junior/Young Rider teams) and World Class. This role has no voting rights in relation to Junior or Young Rider selection.

Policy Advisor - Mrs Maureen Newall.

The Policy Advisor may attend selection meetings to advise the Selectors on policy but will not have a vote in Selection decisions.

Selectors' terms of office are a maximum of 2 terms of 4 years.

## **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY / AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

Selection for all matters in relation to this policy is open to British Dressage full members as per the age categories below:-

**Juniors** from the beginning of the calendar year of their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday to the end of the calendar year of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, riding horses only. Horses must be 6 years old and over.

**Young Riders** from the beginning of the calendar year of their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to the end of the calendar year of their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, riding horses only. Horses must be 6 years old and over.

Further to that, all combinations must satisfy the following criteria:

- Have British citizenship and have been granted a licence by the British Equestrian Federation of Great Britain to compete in International Events according to Article 113 of the FEI General Regulations
- Be qualified for the forthcoming Championships
- Horses are to be 6 years old and over and registered with British Dressage
- Have horses available for selection that have correct ownership in line with FEI regulations making them eligible to compete for GBR
- Be that neither horses nor riders are for any reason not allowed to take part in International competition or the forthcoming European Championship under FEI, BEF or BD rules,
- Riders and their parents/guardians (if applicable) will be required to sign and return to the BD office a commitment acknowledgement to show their acceptance of the selection policy.

Selection is subject to compliance with BEF and FEI Rules on doping and medication control for human and equine athletes.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for riders, parents, owners, selectors, staff or other parties, that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection process.

## **SELECTION FOR PRIME AND PROGRESS SQUADS**

### **Automatic Selection**

Riders who were on the 2012 Junior and Young Rider European Teams will not be required to attend the Viewing day unless they have changed their horse, but must confirm to the Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector, in writing, their intention to continue on the current Squad.

Riders who move from Juniors up to Young Riders do not have any automatic rights and are subject to the Junior/Young Rider selection policy. These riders should be achieving 65% at Premier League shows or submit score sheets as proof they have achieved 65% at Prix St Georges level.

### **Selection Process**

A Viewing day for Juniors and Young Riders is held in September/October each year. Riders who meet the following criteria can apply to attend the viewing day in order to be considered for selection onto the Prime or Progress squad.

### **JUNIORS**

#### **14-16 yrs old**

- Horses to be competing at Medium Level or above and achieving a minimum of 65%
- Riders must send their British Dressage Results Record with Application

#### **17-18 yrs old**

- Horses to be competing at Advanced Medium Level or above and achieving a minimum of 65%
- Riders must send their British Dressage Results Record with Application

### **YOUNG RIDERS**

#### **Up to 18 yrs old**

- Horses to be competing at Advanced Medium Level or above and achieving a minimum of 65%
- Riders must send their British Dressage Results Record with Application

#### **Over 18 yrs old**

- Horses to be competing at Prix St Georges Level or above and achieving a minimum of 65%
- Riders must send their British Dressage Results Record with Application

### **Viewing Day**

Combinations who meet the criteria will be invited by the Selectors to attend a viewing day. Combinations will be assessed by the Selectors on their test riding score on the day. Previous scores obtained in competition will not count towards the outcome of the selection viewing day.

In exceptional circumstances, and with express permission of the Selectors, combinations able to give valid reasons for not being able to attend the Viewing Day may still be considered for selection for the squads. In such circumstances, Selectors reserve the right to consider video/DVD and test sheets as evidence. Riders must also send an objective statement giving their reasons as to why they were unable to attend the viewing day, and it will be at the discretion of the Selectors as to its acceptance.

### **Announcement of Squads**

Following the Viewing Day the Selectors will meet to select squad combinations who will be invited to the Squad Test Riding/Training sessions. All Viewing Day attendees will be emailed with the outcome of the Selectors decision.

The Junior and Young Rider Squads are split into two categories by the Selectors – 'Prime' and 'Progress'.

## **The Prime and Progress Squads**

From 1 January 2012 Squads will be selected from combinations achieving, or in the Selectors opinion, capable of regularly achieving 69% (Prime Squad) and 67% (Progress Squad) or above in FEI tests.

- Junior Riders - Prime Squad 69% at Advanced Medium or above will be considered  
Progress Squad 67% at Advanced Medium or above will be considered
- Young Riders - Prime Squad 69% at Prix St Georges or above will be considered  
Progress Squad 67% at Prix St Georges or above will be considered

One isolated high percentage will not lead to automatic inclusion on the Junior or Young Rider Squad. Based on performance, commitment, attitude and improvement throughout the season, or when riders change horses, alterations to the squads may be made by the Selectors.

Selectors reserve the right to review and change members of squads dependent on current and on-going form. Inclusion on squads will not necessarily lead to International or European Team selection.

## **SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

Selectors will monitor/attend High Profile shows and Premier League from 1 January 2012 onwards. Riders who wish to compete abroad will need to achieve the percentages as below from an FEI International or Candidate International Judge (UK based or foreign) at these shows.

- Young Riders - 69% in open Prix St Georges Qualifier and above (this includes FEI Young Rider Team tests).
- Junior Riders - 69% in open Advanced Medium Qualifier and above (this includes FEI Junior Team tests).

If there is a panel of more than one judge, this does not have to be an overall percentage.

Riders who achieve the above will have priority, dependent upon number of riders invited, for invitations to compete at International shows.

Riders who achieve 69% at Squad Test Riding sessions where the Judge will be a UK International judge will also be considered.

Result sheets and progress forms (available by downloading from the BD website or from the office) relevant to the rider's and horse's level including FEI Team tests should be forwarded regularly to the Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector, Ms Judy Firmston-Williams.

The Junior and Young Rider Premier League and High Profile competitions for 2012 are:-

20 - 22 January	Addington Manor Eq Centre, Buckingham, Bucks
8 – 11 March	Myerscough College, Preston, Lancashire
24 / 25 March	U21's Premier League at The College Equestrian Centre, Bedfordshire
11 - 13 April	The College Equestrian Centre Premier League, Keysoe, Beds
6 - 8 April	CDIJY Addington Manor, Buckingham, Bucks (by invitation only)
1 – 3 May	Addington Manor Eq Centre, Buckingham, Bucks
25 - 27 May	Somerford Park Premier League, Congleton, Cheshire
9 - 12 June	Wellington Riding, Hook, Hampshire
23 / 24 June	Sheepgate Eq Centre, Boston, Lincs
4 – 8 July	Hartpury College, Hartpury, Glos
18 – 21 July	Hickstead Premier League, West Sussex

Premier League competitions promote dressage in Great Britain. The International Teams Committee would like Juniors and Young Riders to give these competitions as much support as possible.

Selectors or designated/appointed representatives will be present at the venues listed above.

### **SELECTION FOR EUROPEAN JUNIOR AND YOUNG RIDER CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS**

Prime consideration will be given to results from International competitions abroad from 1 January 2012 in the relevant Junior or Young Rider Team test.

Team test results from the CDIYJ at Addington Manor will be the next consideration. Results from the high profile show at Addington Manor and Premier League competitions may also be taken into consideration.

Riders are encouraged to compete at the Sunshine Tour and Vidauban for experience but results from these competitions will not be part of the selection process.

The following will also be important to the Selectors when making their decisions:-

- The rate of improvement in FEI Team tests as well as the actual results at 69% or above
- Past form at major events
- The ability, age and fitness of the horse and rider to stand up to pressure, whether the horse is a good traveller and the overall experience of riding in a team and the rider's ability to cope with adverse weather conditions
- The availability of the horse for the full season i.e. security of any lease/loan agreement
- Commitment (if selected as a team member or reserve) to attend the Team Preparation camp prior to the Championships

Riders selected for European Teams will also be required to sign and return an Athlete Agreement before they attend the European Team Preparation camp.

### **Process of Selection for the European Junior and Young Rider Championship Teams**

The Selectors will meet in order to select the European Teams and reserves from any of the riders and horses that have fulfilled the selection criteria. Advice from the Junior and Young Rider Chef d'Equipe's, Consultant Trainer/s and Vet may be sought, as required.

The Selectors will attempt to achieve unanimity. In the event that this does not prove possible, a majority vote will suffice.

The Selectors reserve the right not to have to send a team to the Junior and Young Rider European Championships but just to send individual riders or no one at all.

## **FEI Qualification System for the Junior and Young Rider European Championships**

The Selectors draw your attention to the qualification system for Juniors and Young Riders for their respective European Championship as detailed below:-

### **Juniors**

Each combination (rider and horse) have to attain one final percentage score of at least 60% or above in a Junior Team or Individual Competition test at a CDIJ including the 2011 Junior European Championship, from 1 January 2011 until 18 June 2012.

### **Young Riders**

Each combination (rider and horse) have to attain one final percentage score of at least 60% or above in a Young Rider Team or Individual (Prix St Georges) test at a CDIY including the 2011 Young Rider European Championship, or one final percentage score of 60% in a Prix St Georges test at a CDI, from 1 January 2011 until 18 June 2012. For those riders who will compete as Young Riders for the first time in 2012, one final percentage score of at least 60% in a Junior Team or Individual competition test at a CDIJ including the 2011 Junior European Championship, from 1 January until 31 December 2011, will also be accepted.

### **Announcement of the Junior and Young Rider European Teams**

A long list will be announced approximately mid-April after the U25's show at Keysoe and Addington CDIYJ. The announcement of the European teams will be made at the beginning of June or thereabouts by email and confirmed by hard copy letter.

In principle, there will be a 'Team Preparation Camp' approximately 2 weeks prior to the departure of teams to the Junior and Young Rider European Championships. It is compulsory for all selected combinations and nominated reserves to attend any Team Preparation camp designated by the Selectors or they may forfeit their place.

**The Selectors reserve the right to finalise the team at the last practicable date if they feel this is in the best interests of achieving their aims of Selection. They reserve the right to delay the announcement of some or all of the team.**

Riders and their connections who are notified of their team or reserve place **MUST** keep it confidential until it is publicly announced.

### **Team Running Order**

At the European Championships and any other International Team competition the order of team riding will be decided by the Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector in consultation with her co-Selectors & Chef d'Equipe. The Chef d'Equipe will inform the riders and owners accordingly.

### **Substitutions**

The Selectors may substitute a Reserve for a Team member between the announcement of the Team up to one hour before the Veterinary Inspection at the Junior and Young Rider European Championships. However the reason for a substitution must be only because either there is a strong veterinary case for substitution or the performance of the Team member has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a substitution is vital.

If the decision is made to change a Team member for a Reserve then this issue will be handled in a very sensitive and sympathetic manner.

## **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Selectors will take into consideration the following for **both** International competitions and the European Junior and Young Rider Championships.

### **Veterinary Considerations**

All veterinary inspections will be private (however the results will be communicated in confidence to the Selection Panel). As part of the selection process, the advice of the Junior and Young Rider Team Vet appointed by the Selectors will be taken into consideration. Riders will be expected to make themselves and their horse available when required to do so by the Selectors. Horses based abroad or anyone who misses official trot-up / veterinary inspections will need to be seen by an approved Vet, agreed by the Selectors, costs to be met by the owner. The Team or Approved Vet will have the complete power to insist on such means as he sees fit to ensure the soundness of the horse. **This will be treated confidentially amongst team officials.**

Squad riders must notify the Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector and the Junior and Young Rider Team Vet of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately.

The Team Vet may require the results of a full blood test and disclosure of any drugs that short-listed horses may be receiving (this will be entirely confidential).

All horses competing in FEI competitions both in their home country and abroad will be required to have a six monthly influenza vaccination in their FEI passport.

### **Home Trainers**

Home trainers will be expected to work under the direction of and in co-operation with, the nominated Consultant/Team Trainer (if appointed) for the benefit of the horse/rider combination.

### **Fitness / Welfare**

Although good results at the Summer Premier League competitions are important, the onus is on the riders not to over campaign their horses.

It is important that riders plan ahead so they and their horse are in the best form for the compulsory Summer Premier League competitions and Junior and Young Rider European Championships.

### **Finance**

All International competitions with the exception of the Junior and Young Rider European Championships will be entirely self-funded by riders in 2012. Chef d'Equipes may be named to travel to International competitions and will be appointed for the Junior and Young Rider European Championships.

### **Rules**

Under 21 FEI rules do not allow Whips or Commanders. It is essential that you and your trainer know the correct rules. The FEI rules can be downloaded from the FEI website – [.fei.org](http://.fei.org).

### **Weather**

It is presumed that the weather conditions likely at the relevant International competition / Junior and Young Rider European Championships have been considered in selection. However, should there be drastic change for some reason there might be cause for alterations to be made to the team, in which case everyone concerned will be notified and the explanation given as soon as convenient.

### **Cancellation / Postponement**

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

### **Modifications / Exceptional Circumstances**

The right is reserved in exceptional circumstances to waive or modify any of the selection criteria in order to enhance the likelihood of achieving the stated goals.

### **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 Junior and Young Rider Selection Policy as long as these changes and amendments are clearly communicated to all parties.

### **Communication**

The Junior and Young Rider Selection Policy will be placed on the British Dressage Website and a copy will be sent to all International Riders. Copies will be available on request from the BD office.

### **Force Majeure**

In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the British Dressage's control e.g. disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the British Dressage Board reserves the right to make the decision either to change the selection policy or procedure which might include withdrawing the British Teams from competition.

### **Discretion**

The Selectors are entitled within this selection procedure to use their discretion 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.

### **Code of Conduct / Team / Individual Member Agreement**

When selecting the team, the Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector and co-Selectors will take into consideration, not just the statistical results, but also the willingness of the rider to co-operate with the development of excellence in dressage and maintenance and development of the reputation of the team.

### **Enquiries / Points of Contact**

Enquiries about the Junior and Young Rider Selection Policy can be made either in writing or on the telephone to the BD office or Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector, Ms Judy Firmston-Williams.

The key points of contact relating to this Junior and Young Rider Selection Policy are: International Teams Director – Mr Nick Burton, Chief Junior and Young Rider Selector – Ms Judy Firmston-Williams and BD U21's/BYRDS Officer – Miss Karen Ryder.

## **Appeals Processes and Procedures**

Riders have the right to appeal against the decision of the Selectors. Appeals must be made in writing within 48 hrs of the announcements. Appeals must be sent to the Chief Executive of British Dressage. If the Chief Executive is not able to satisfy the appellant's concerns the appeal will be forwarded to the BEF. The processes and procedures of the BEF Appeals process are set out in the BEF Rule Book

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