



## **BRITISH DRESSAGE SELECTION POLICY**

### **LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES**



#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The British Equestrian Team Dressage Squad (the "Squad") for the 2012 Olympic Games (the "Games") will be nominated by British Dressage ("BD"), through the British Equestrian Federation ("BEF") to the British Olympic Association ("BOA"). The BOA, which will accept the BEF's recommendation in all cases unless exceptional circumstances arise, will formally make the final selection to the Great Britain Olympic Team ("Team GB").

1.2.

1.2.1 References to selection for the Games in this policy refers to selection of a Squad of 4 or 3 rider/horse combinations that will be recommended to the BOA for formal selection and references to the "Squad" in this Policy are to be construed accordingly.

1.2.2 References to the "Team" refer to the 3 rider / horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team and Individual medals at the Games;

1.2.3 References to the "Individual" refer to the 4<sup>th</sup> rider / horse combination that will compete only for the Individual medals should a 4<sup>th</sup> Quota place be gained.

#### **2. OBJECTIVE**

2.1. The specific aim of this Selection Policy (the "Policy") is to select rider and horse combinations for nomination to the Squad that will deliver the best possible results for Great Britain at the Games in the equestrian discipline of dressage.

#### **3. FORMAT CHANGE & QUOTA PLACE QUALIFICATION**

3.1. In the Games the Team medal will be decided by a combination of the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Special scores for each of the 3 Team athletes. It is important that riders note this change in the format.

3.2. Riders that secure Dressage Quota Places for Great Britain, whether it be Team or Individual do not have an automatic right to fill those Quota places, which will be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

#### **4. CONFIDENTIALITY**

4.1. It is vitally important for the integrity of the Policy that riders, owners, selectors, staff and associated parties practise at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

## **5. SELECTION PANEL**

5.1 All Selectors, (which term includes the Chairman of Selectors), will be appointed by the British Dressage Board in consultation with the Performance Director ("PD"). The Selectors as a panel will have the knowledge and experience required to select championship teams and will be free from all vested interests/conflicts of interest in so far as is possible.

5.2 The Chief Executive ("CEO") of BD will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise.

5.3 Selectors will follow the BD Terms of Reference for Selectors. These are available on request from the BD Office.

5.4 All Selectors will have equal voting rights. Decisions must be reached by a majority and with no abstentions (unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest).

5.5 The Selection Panel shall comprise:

|                       |   |                 |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Chairman of Selectors | - | Nick Burton     |
| Selectors             | - | Jane Kidd       |
|                       | - | Sandy Phillips  |
|                       | - | David Trott     |
|                       | - | Linda Whetstone |
|                       | - | Simon Hardwick  |

5.6 Other advisors will be used as required – Equine / Human SSM personnel.

5.7 The PD and a representative of the BOA will be entitled to attend all selection meetings but will not have a vote.

## **6. POLICY FORMATION**

6.1 The British Dressage Selection Policy for the Games is compiled in consultation with the BD Board of Directors, Selectors, riders and PD.

## **7. CHANGES IN POLICY**

7.1 The Selectors will have the right in exceptional circumstances (e.g. force majeure) to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the Chairman of Selectors and the PD. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all riders who are competing in senior FEI shows and the PD by email and the section revised will be published on the BD Website.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

8.1 The BD International Secretary will ensure that each rider available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including being:

- a British passport holder;

- a member of BD and eligible to represent Great Britain in international championships under the rules of the FEI having been registered by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in International Events and being in possession of a Certificate of Competence in accordance with Articles 113 and 117 FEI Regulations;
- eligible under any applicable anti-doping code, including the BOA's byelaw entitled "Eligibility for Membership of Team GB of Persons Found Guilty of a Doping Offence".

8.2 In addition, as a condition of selection for the Games, a rider:

- must be eligible according to the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI-IOC Olympic Qualification Standards agreement (FEI-IOC OQS);
- must ensure that any horses entered for the Games have been registered with the FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the rider, by 31 December 2011 or, in the case of horses with multinational ownership, must be registered with the FEI by the 31 December 2011, under the name of the nation for which the horse will compete during the Games.
- will be obliged to sign the BOA Team Members' Agreement and to abide by the BEF World Class and Team Charter.

## 9. QUALIFICATION PERIOD

9.1 The qualification period for horses and riders will be in accordance with FEI regulations, which are available at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)

## 10. SELECTION CRITERIA

10.1. The Selectors will take the following criteria into account in making their selections decisions and have due regard to the relevant statistical evidence available to them.

10.1.1 The results by the horse and rider combination at the relevant shows in 2012 with emphasis on GP and GPS classes followed by consideration of those in the Kur.

Further consideration may be given to:

- Consistency of scores over 70%
- The star level of the shows and the star level of the panels of judges
- The trend in average GP and GPS scores in 2012
- Scores in 2011
- The FEI rankings of the other competitors and individual placings

10.1.2 All combinations will be expected (except under exceptional circumstances) to compete at a minimum of 2 of the high profile shows, as identified by the Selectors in the show planning procedure prior to selection and to attend additional specific shows at the request of the Selectors.

10.1.3 The fitness and soundness of the horse. The advice of the World Class Programme veterinary surgeon or another veterinary surgeon may be sought. Riders should notify the Team Veterinarian of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately.

10.1.4 The fitness of the rider. The advice of the World Class Programme Director of Human Sports Science and Medicine may be sought and riders may be asked to undergo a

fitness test. Fitness of riders to compete to their full potential may be taken in to consideration by the Selectors when selecting the Team and Reserves.

10.1.5 The physical conditions in which the Games will be held and the potential impact of those conditions on the horse and rider combinations' performance.

10.1.6 Any warnings given by the Selectors or the PD with regard to the behaviour of the rider and people associated with the rider (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches and grooms) that the Selectors may reasonably consider will have an impact on creating a positive team environment and affect (either positively or negatively) the achievement of the Objective.

10.1.7 Willingness of a rider to compete at Shows identified by the Chairman of Selectors as important for assessing performance. Riders will be expected to give strong justification as to their reasons for not attending identified shows.

## **11. SELECTION PROCESS**

### **11.1 HEAD TO HEAD COMPETITIONS**

11.1.1 Riders should be aware that the process of selection requires the Selectors to identify three Team members, one Individual (if qualified) and a minimum of two reserves. If it becomes apparent to the Selectors that two or more combinations are difficult to separate in terms of similarity of results as well as other criteria identified in the Policy, they will require the relevant riders to compete the relevant horses in the same class at the same show (i.e. 'head to head' competition) to allow Selectors to assess performance under the same conditions. Possible shows to be used for head to head competitions will be identified in the competition planning procedure.

11.1.2 Combinations will be notified at the earliest possible opportunity to allow for sufficient planning if they are required to participate in a head to head competition.

11.1.3 If the head to head competition takes place at a CDIO the places in the team running order will be identified and the head to head combinations will be drawn to determine their place in the order. Except in exceptional circumstances, the head to head competitors will follow each other in the running order and ideally, where possible be drawn on the same day.

11.2 The Selectors will meet in order to select the Squad and reserves as required. The Selectors will be briefed by the World Class Programme Human and Equine SSM staff as to a rider's or horse's fitness for selection. This information will be coordinated by the PD and will be delivered in summary format and not include the confidential detail.

11.3 VETERINARY MATTERS - As part of the selection process the advice from the World Class Programme official veterinary surgeon will be taken into consideration. There will be an official inspection which all horses must attend and where a blood test may be taken. Alternatively, the official inspections may take place at riders' yards or at a competition. If a horse is based abroad then an inspection will be arranged by the Team Veterinary Surgeon. Riders are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the World Class Programme Official veterinary surgeon.

## 11.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SQUAD FOR THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

11.4.1 By 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012 the Selectors will select a maximum of 12 riders and 15 horses which will be submitted to the FEI as the Nominated Entries. By 17<sup>th</sup> June horses and riders must have met the minimum eligibility standards.

11.4.2 The Selectors will recommend to the BOA through the BEF the rider/horse combinations which they recommend for selection to the Team and as the Individual on or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012. The Selectors may or may not select reserves at this time but will recommend the first reserve at this time if a 4<sup>th</sup> quota place (i.e. the Individual athlete place) has not been secured. The Selectors will announce at the least the 1<sup>st</sup> reserve (if not already selected) by 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012

11.4.3 The BOA will control the public announcement of Selection. Riders will be informed of the Selectors' decisions prior to the public announcement by the PD but will be required to maintain confidentiality until they are formally notified by the BOA of selection and subject to any BOA requirements as to public announcement.

## 12. POST SELECTION

### 12.1. TEAM RUNNING ORDER

The Chairman of Selectors in consultation with the PD / Chef d'Equipe will decide the Team running order. The Chef d'Equipe will inform riders and owners accordingly. The Chef d'Equipe may make amendments to the Team running order in consultation with the PD and Chairman of Selectors (if available) and if deemed necessary to do so.

### 12.2 MAINTAINING FORM

Riders should note that selection decisions are subject to the horse / rider combinations retaining fitness/performance (see Substitution below). Once a horse/rider combination has been selected they must maintain a suitable training or competition programme.

### 12.3 SUBSTITUTION

The Selectors may substitute a Squad member for a reserve between the announcement of the Team and the date of the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) on or around 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012. From DRM until one hour before the First Horse Inspection substitutions can be made from the Nominated Entry List. From 1 hour before the First Horse Inspection until 2 hours before the scheduled start of the Grand Prix Test, a member of the Team may be substituted by the Individual. For clarification see Article 609 of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either, the rider is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or 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. 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. Following DRM a certificate may be required from an officially recognized doctor and/or with the permission of the Veterinary Commission.

In the case of a rider being considered medically unable to compete the decision will be made by the PD following an examination by a World Class Programme approved Doctor and in

consultation with the Chairman of Selectors (if available); this may involve the rider being asked to ride certain dressage movements on their Team horse; being unfit to compete is best described as "not being able to ride their horse in a manner which allows the rider to produce the standard of performance at which they were selected".

In the case of a horse being considered unable due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated this decision will be made by the PD following an examination by the World Class Programme approved veterinarian and in consultation with the Chairman of Selectors if available.

### **13. GENERAL**

#### **13.1 DISCRETION**

In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors will be entitled within the provisions of this Policy to exercise their discretion to achieve the objective where it is reasonable to do so.

#### **13.2 CODE OF CONDUCT/ ATHLETE AGREEMENT**

13.2.1 All selected athletes will be required to sign and abide by the BOA athletes agreement which will be made available to athletes at selection.

13.2.2 Athletes and other accredited personnel will be required to sign and abide by any BOA generated agreements and/or abide by codes of behaviour for the equestrian team at the Olympic Games.

13.2.3 Athletes and their support teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, Team GBR, BEF, World Class or the BOA in to disrepute.

#### **13.3 CLEAN SPORT**

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

#### **13.4 WEATHER**

The weather conditions likely at the Games 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 and / or the Team running order in which case everyone concerned will be notified and the explanation given as soon as practicable.

#### **13.5 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 team or individuals need to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

#### **13.6 FORCE MAJEURE**

In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BD's control e.g. disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, collapse of World Class funding, the British Dressage Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD and Chief Executive of the BEF, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team or individuals from competition.

## **14. COMMUNICATION**

### **14.1 PUBLICATION/CIRCULATION**

The Selection Policy will be placed on the BD Website. Hard copies will be available on request from the BD office.

### **14.2 ENQUIRIES**

Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or on the telephone to the BD office.

### **14.3 POINTS OF CONTACT**

14.3.1 The key points of contact relating to this Selection Policy are: Chairman of Selectors, PD and BD International Secretary.

14.3.2 The point of contact for riders who are competing at senior FEI shows and who wish to discuss their intended competition plans will be the Chairman of Selectors or his nominated representative from the Selection panel; riders are encouraged to discuss their competition plans with the Chairman of Selectors.

### **14.4 INFORMATION**

Further information concerning timelines for planning meetings, shows that will particularly influence selection, shows where head to head participation may be required, shows where selectors may be in attendance will be provided in communications to riders competing in senior FEI shows at Grand Prix level.

## **15. APPEALS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

15.1 Riders have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors but only on the grounds that the Selectors have failed to comply with this policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent selectors could reasonably reach. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to both the Chief Executive of BD and to the BEF in accordance with the BEF Olympic and Paralympic Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process") within 48 hrs of the relevant rider being informed of the Selectors' decision.

The Chief Executive of BD shall on receipt of the notice of appeal seek to bring together all parties for a without prejudice discussion that may, if all are agreed, take the form of a facilitated mediation. For the avoidance of doubt the Appeal Process shall continue to run during the course of such discussion. However, in the event that both parties notify the BEF that such discussion/mediation has resolved the appeal within 48 hours of receipt of the notice of Appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed. The Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website and copies can be obtained from the BEF office.