



SELECTION POLICY FOR PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE



LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES

INTRODUCTION

The British Equestrian Team Para-Equestrian Dressage Squad (the “Squad”) for the 2012 Paralympic Games (the “Games”) will be nominated by British Dressage (BD), through the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) to the British Paralympic Association (“BPA”). The BPA, which will accept the BEF’s recommendation in all cases unless exceptional circumstances arise, will formally make the final selection to the Great Britain Paralympic Team (“ParalympicsGB”).

- References to selection for the Games in this policy refers to selection of a Squad of 5 rider/horse combinations that will be recommended to the BPA for formal selection and references to the “Squad” in this Policy are to be construed accordingly.
- References to the “Team” refer to the 4 rider / horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team and Individual medals at the Games;
- references to the “Individual” refer to the 5th rider / horse combination that will compete only for the Individual medals

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).

OBJECTIVE

The specific aim of this Selection Policy (the “Policy”) is to select rider and horse combinations for nomination to the Squad which will deliver the best possible results, particularly Gold medals, for Great Britain at the Games in the equestrian discipline of para-equestrian dressage.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the riders, owners, selectors, staff and 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 PANEL

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

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

All Selectors will have equal voting rights.

The Selection Panel shall comprise:

Chairman	-	Juliet Seal
Selector	-	Carolyn Gardiner
Selector	-	Waveney Luke

Other advisors as required – Equine / Human SSM personnel.

The PM will attend all selection meetings to inform, advise and assist the Selectors but he / she will not have a vote. This will safeguard the close relationship between the PM and the riders.

Although the PM will not have a vote, he will have the power of veto over the selection panel's selection decisions.

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

SELECTION POLICY

BACKGROUND

The British Para-Equestrian Dressage Selection Policy for the Games is agreed in consultation with the British Dressage Board of Directors, Selectors, PM, National Coach, Riders and PD.

ELIGIBILITY / AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

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

- a British passport holder;
- born in or before 1996
- a member in good standing 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

B. 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-IPC Olympic Qualification Standards agreement (FEI-IPC OQS)];
- hold a current International Classification Card
- will be obliged to sign the BPA Team Members' Agreement and to abide by the BEF World Class and Team Charter.

QUALIFICATION PERIOD

The qualification period for horses and riders will be in accordance with FEI regulations, which are available at www.fei.org

SELECTION CRITERIA

In making their selection the Selectors will take in to account results as one of a number of factors relevant to selection.

The combination's results will be a prime factor in selection but weighting will be given to the standing of the judges and shows and the competitiveness of the starters. The scores from the BD Championships, Deauville CPEDI3*, Moorseele CPEDI3* and Hartpury CPEDI3* will carry greatest weight if available .

The Selectors will take in to account, in addition to the a rider's / horse's results and current form, the following criteria;

- Consistency of 70% plus scores in CPEDI3*, BD Championships and National qualifying competitions.
- Fitness and soundness of the horse – the advice of the World Class Programme veterinary surgeon or another appointed veterinary surgeon will be sought.
- Fitness of the rider – the advice of the World Class Programme Director of Human Sports Science and Medicine or other Human SSM staff will be sought.
- Willingness of the rider or his / her accredited owners, coaches, SSM staff, grooms or others that may be assisting the rider during the Games, to contribute to the aim of the Selection Policy and the Charter.
- Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Games.
- Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.

- In order to achieve the Objective of the Policy the identification and composition of teams from other competing nations may be taken into account.
- Riders depth of equestrian knowledge and ability to ride and train horses to achieve world-class results

SELECTION PROCESS

Competition Attendance

To be considered for Selection for the Games, rider / horse combinations should ideally;

1. Qualify for and compete at the BD Open Winter Championships at Hartpury on 18th April 2012. (Riders should refer to the BD rulebook/website for details of the competition dates and points based qualification process for both of this Championship)

AND

2. Qualify for (in line with the BD Rules for this competition) and compete at the BD British Para Championship Hickstead Finals on 17th and 18th June 2012.

AND

3. Compete at CPEDI 3* Competition at Hartpury 4th to 6th July 2012

The Selectors have the right to give dispensation not to compete in the competitions listed above to rider / horse combinations on an individual basis if such a decision contributes to the Objective of this Selection process. Rider / horse partnerships that compete at Moorsele CPEDI3* will not be required to compete at the BD Open Winter Championships.

Selection Meeting

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 PM and will be delivered in summary format and not include the confidential detail.

The Selectors will attempt to achieve unanimity. In the event that this does not prove possible, a majority vote will suffice and a record will be kept of the view of each member.

VETERINARY

As part of the selection process the advice from the World Class Programme official veterinary surgeon will be taken into consideration. There may 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. All horses must have a valid and up to date FEI passport with vaccinations recorded according to FEI Rules

VETERINARY (COMMUNICATION)

Riders in contention for Selection must notify the PM and the Team Veterinarian of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately.

RIDER FITNESS

Fitness of riders to compete to their full potential may be taken in to consideration by the Selectors when selecting the Team and Reserves. Riders may be asked to undergo a fitness assessment by the World Class Programme Director of Human SSM; this assessment will take into consideration each rider's disability.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SQUAD FOR THE LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES

By 18th June 2012 the Selectors will select a maximum of 15 riders and a maximum of 15 horses which will be submitted to the FEI as the Nominated Entries. By 18th June horses and riders must have met the minimum eligibility standards.

The Selectors will recommend to the BPA through the BEF who they recommend for selection to the Squad on or before the 6th July 2012. The Selectors may or may not select Reserves at this time.

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

POST SELECTION

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 their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the PM. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss amendments to the programme with the PM could lead to the rider / horse combination being substituted.

GENERAL

DISCRETION

The Selectors will be deemed to act as experts throughout and are entitled within this selection procedure to use their discretion to select combinations onto the Squad provided that they can demonstrate that any discretion used was arrived at through a process of integrity where the information used and procedures taken were reasonable and justifiable.

CODE OF CONDUCT/ CHARTER

Riders, owners, grooms and riders' "home teams" are expected to follow the principles of the World Class and Team Charter.

CLEAN SPORT

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

SUBSTITUTION

The Selectors may substitute a Squad member with a Reserve between the announcement of the Squad and the date of the GBR Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) on 20th August 2012 (date subject to confirmation by BPA). From DRM until two hours before the scheduled start of the Team Test, a member of the Team may be substituted by the Individual. For clarification see Article 610 of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Effective for the 2012 London Paralympic 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 recognised 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 PM and 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 PM and the Chairman of Selectors (if available).

CHANGES IN POLICY

The Selectors will have the right to amend or change the Selection Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Selection Policy. Any changes to the Selection Policy must be approved in writing by the PM, Chairman of Selectors and the PD.

The amended Selection Policy in its entirety will be communicated to riders in contention for selection and the PM by email and the section revised will be published on the BD Website.

WEATHER

It is presumed that 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 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 team or individual needs to be selected in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

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, PM 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.

COMMUNICATION

CONSULTATION

The British Para-Equestrian Dressage Selection Policy is formulated in agreement and consultation with the BD Board, Selectors, Riders, PM, National Coach and PD.

PUBLICATION/CIRCULATION

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

ENQUIRIES

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

POINTS OF CONTACT

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

The point of contact for riders who wish to discuss their intended competition plans will be the PM, Para-Equestrian Dressage Discipline Coordinator and National Coach.

APPEALS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

Riders have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors. An Appeal must be made in writing to the Chief Executive of BD within 48 hrs of the riders 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. In the event that such discussion/mediation fails to resolve the appeal within 48 hours of receipt of the notice of Appeal, the Appeal shall be forwarded to the BEF and the BEF Appeals process shall commence. The processes and procedures of the BEF Appeals process are set out in the BEF Rule Book.