



## PONY SELECTION POLICY 2012

The British Dressage Pony 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 a Winter Training Squad who will be invited to official training sessions with the appointed Pony Team Trainer.
- ii) 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 Pony European Championships to be held on 17 – 22 July at Fontainebleau, France.

**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 pony currently registered with the FEI.

### SELECTION PANEL

All Selectors will be appointed by the British Dressage Board of Directors. The Chief Pony Selectors will work with the International Teams Director. The Selectors will have the knowledge and experience required to effectively select Championship teams and 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 Pony Selectors and the Pony Selectors together comprise "the Selectors".

The Selection Panel will comprise the following:-

#### Pony Selectors

Chief Pony Selector	Mrs Jenny Ward
Selector	Mrs Sarah Pidgley
Selector	Mr John Robinson

Each member of the panel has equal voting rights.

## **Other contributors**

International Teams Director - Mr Nick Burton. (no voting rights)

Responsible for international strategy and for communicating to the British Dressage Board of Directors on all matters relating to International Teams (including Pony teams) and World Class. This role has no voting rights in relation to Pony 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 from the beginning of the calendar year of their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday to the end of the calendar year of their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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 (where applicable)
- ponies are to be 6 years old and over and registered with British Dressage
- that the ponies available for selection have correct ownership in line with FEI regulations making them eligible to compete for GBR
- that neither ponies 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 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 the riders, parents, 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 FOR WINTER TRAINING SQUAD**

### **Automatic Selection**

Riders who were on the 2011 Pony European Team will not be required to attend the Viewing day unless they have changed their pony, but must confirm to the Chief Pony Selector, in writing, their intention to continue on the Winter Training Squad. Riders who move from Ponies up to Juniors do not have any automatic rights and are subject to the Junior / Young Rider selection policy.

## **Selection Process**

A Viewing day for pony 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 to the Winter Training Squad:

### **Riders 13 years and under**

- Combinations to be competing at Elementary level and showing considerable potential to Medium level
- Rider to produce two score sheets of 65% or more at BD Elementary level
- Riders to have a written recommendation from their trainer / coach

### **Riders 14-16 years old**

- Combinations to be competing at Medium level
- Rider to produce two score sheets of 65% or more in FEI Pony Team Tests. Alternatively two score sheets at 65% at BD Medium level may be considered.
- Rider should have a recommendation from their trainer

Original score sheets are required and must be sent to the Chief Pony Selector.

In exceptional circumstances the Selectors reserve the right to consider video / DVD evidence of potentially talented combinations working at the required level but without score sheets / results.

## **Viewing Day**

Combinations who meet the criteria will be invited by the Selectors to attend the viewing day. Combinations will be assessed by the Selectors on their performance working with the trainers 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 Winter Training Squad. In such circumstances, Selectors reserve the right to consider video / DVD evidence.

## **Announcement of Winter Training Squad**

Following the viewing day the Selectors will meet to select combinations and reserves to the Winter Training Squad. All Viewing Day attendees will be emailed with the outcome of the selectors decision.

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

## SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Riders who wish to be considered for International competitions will be expected to achieve the following:

- scores at 68% or above in FEI Pony Team Tests
- scores at 68% or above in official test riding sessions organised by the selectors may be considered
- other combinations who in the opinion of the Selectors are demonstrating the potential to score 68% may be considered.

Copies of result sheets and completed progress forms should be forwarded regularly to the Chief Pony Selector.

Selectors will be present at the competitions listed below:-

8 - 11 March	Myerscough Premier League, Lancashire
24 – 25 March	U21 Premier League, The College EC, Bedfordshire
25 - 27 May	Somerford Park Premier League, Congleton, Cheshire
9 - 11 June	Wellington Premier League, Hants

Premier League competitions promote dressage in Great Britain and the Selectors would ask riders to support these competitions as much as possible.

## SELECTION FOR EUROPEAN PONY CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Riders who wish to be considered for selection for the European Pony Championship Team will be expected to:-

- compete in at least 2 of the nominated selection competitions listed below

### **PLUS**

- Compete in the final selection trial at Wellington Premier League, Hants.

If a rider is chosen to compete in an overseas international competition then, with the written permission of the Chief Pony Selector, this will take precedence over competing in a nominated Premier League and also count as one of the nominated selection competitions.

### Nominated Selection Competitions

8 - 11 March	Myerscough Premier League, Lancashire
24 – 25 March	U21 Premier League, The College EC, Bedfordshire
6 – 8 April	CDIP Addington (International Competition, by invitation only)
25 - 27 May	Somerford Park Premier League, Congleton, Cheshire
9 - 11 June	Wellington Premier League, Hants ( <b>Compulsory Final Trial</b> )

Team selection will primarily be based on **FEI TEAM TEST** results, particularly from International shows. International results abroad will be taken into consideration and take preference over results from Premier League competitions. The following will also be important to the Selectors when making their decisions:-

- The rate of improvement in FEI Pony Team Tests as well as actual consistent results at 68% or above.
- Past form at major events

- The ability, age and fitness of pony and rider to stand up to pressure, whether the pony 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 pony 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 the European Team will also be required to sign and return an Athlete Agreement before they attend the European Team Preparation camp.

### **FEI Qualification System for the Pony European Championships**

The Selectors draw your attention to the newly implemented qualification system for Pony Riders for the European Championship as detailed below:-

Each combination (rider and pony) have to attain one final percentage score of at least 60% or above in a Pony Team or Individual Competition test at a CDIP including the 2011 Pony European Championship, from 1 January 2011 until 2 July 2012.

### **Process of Selection for the European Pony Championship Team**

The Selectors will meet in order to select the European team and reserves from any of the riders and ponies that have fulfilled the selection criteria. Advice from the Pony Chef d'Equipe, Pony Team Trainer 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 send a team to the European Pony Championships but just to send individual riders or no one at all.

### **Announcement of the European Pony Team**

The team and reserves will be announced following the weekend of 16-17 June 2012. This will be done by email and followed by a hard copy letter.

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 the best possible result at the Championships. They reserve the right to delay the announcement of some or all of the team and reserves.

In principle, there will be a 'Team Preparation camp' held on the last weekend prior to departure of team to the European Pony Championships. It is compulsory for all selected combinations and nominated reserves to attend the Team Preparation camp or they may forfeit their place.

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 Pony Selector in consultation with the co-Selectors, Team Trainer & 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 European Pony Championships. However the reason for a substitution must only be 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 Pony 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 Pony Team Vet appointed by the Selectors will be taken into consideration. Riders will be expected to make themselves and their pony available when required to do so by the Selectors. Ponies based abroad or anyone who misses official trot-up / veterinary inspections will need to be seen by an approved FEI Vet, agreed by the Selectors, costs to be met by the owner. The Pony Team or Approved Vet will have the complete power to insist on such means as he sees fit to ensure the soundness of the pony. **This will be treated confidentially amongst team officials.**

Squad riders must notify the Chief Pony Selector and the Pony Team Vet of any change in their pony'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 ponies may be receiving (this will be entirely confidential).

It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that their pony is familiar with being measured. Ponies may be required to be measured on site at International competitions and **ALL** ponies will be measured before they are allowed to compete at the European Pony Championships.

All ponies 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 in line with FEI regulations.

### Home Trainers

Home trainers will be expected to work under the direction of and in co-operation with the nominated Pony Team Trainer for the benefit of the pony/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 ponies.

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

## **Finance**

All International competitions, with the exception of the European Pony Championships will be entirely self-funded by riders in 2012. A Chef d'Equipe may be appointed to travel to international competitions and will be appointed for the European Championships.

## **Rules**

Under 21 FEI rules do not allow Whips or Commanders. It is essential that riders and trainers 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/ European Pony Championship have been considered in selection. However, should there be a 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.

## **Cancelation / 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 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 aims of the selection policy.

## **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 Pony Selection Policy as long as these changes and amendments are clearly communicated to all parties. Communication of changes will be via the BD Website.

## **Communication**

The Pony 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 British Dressage's control e.g. disease outbreak in ponies 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 Team from the 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 Pony 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 Pony Selection Policy can be made either in writing or on the telephone to the BD office or Chief Pony Selector, Mrs Jenny Ward.

The key points of contact relating to this Pony Selection Policy are; International Teams Director - Mr Nick Burton, Chief Pony Selector - Mrs Jenny Ward and BD U21's/BYRDS Officer – Miss Karen Ryder.

### **Appeals Process 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.