

British Dressage Selection Policy for Pony/Junior/Young Rider/COH 2020

1. Definitions

'Selectors' – The people selected by the British Dressage Board to undertake selections on their behalf for GBR riders competing in Under 21 dressage competition.

'International Director' (ID) – Refers to the member-elected representative of the British Dressage Board of Directors, responsible for managing International Teams.

'Independent Chair' – The person selected by the British Dressage Board to Chair the selection panel meetings and to ensure that the policy is adhered to.

'World Class Programme' – Refers to the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) Performance Programme as supported by UK Sport

'The Team' – The four athlete/horse/pony combinations that will be selected to compete for Equestrian Team GBR in the Team and Individual Competition at the Championships.

'The Reserves' – The two reserve athlete/horse/pony combinations.

2. Selection Panel

2.1 The GBR Dressage Team for EU-CH-P/COH/J/YR will be selected by the British Dressage voting Selectors.

2.2 Selectors will be nominated by the British Dressage (BD) Board. The voting Selectors will be appointed on the basis that they have the knowledge and expertise required to select championship teams and will be free from all vested interests/conflicts of interest, in so far as is possible.

2.3 Names and seniority of the Selectors will be announced and placed on the BD website. The names of the final remaining members and representatives of the Selection Panel will be posted on the BD website two weeks in advance of the initial selection meeting(s).

2.4 The Selection Panel shall comprise the following positions:

Independent Chair (non-voting)

International Director – Judy Harvey (casting vote only)

Selector – Nikki Herbert (voting)

Selector – Leanne Wall (voting)

Performance Analyst – Claire Ballantyne (non-voting)

Team Veterinary Surgeon (non-voting)

Secretariat (non-voting)

2.5 Other advisors may be invited to attend the meeting with the sole purpose of providing relevant evidence and insight, but will not have the right to vote.

- 2.6 All voting Selectors will have equal voting rights. They will at all times use their discretion honestly and with integrity having regard to and acting in compliance with any applicable BD and BEF codes of conduct and/or code of ethics in force from time to time.
- 2.7 Decisions must be reached by a majority vote and with no abstentions, unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest.
- 2.8 In the event of a majority decision not being achieved or possible, or due to a declared conflict of interest, the International Director will have the casting vote.
- 2.9 The Selection Panel will be provided, in advance, with relevant performance evidence and insight to support them in their selection decisions. The information will be prepared by the BD U21 International Officer and Performance Analyst, in consultation with the Chefs, Coach Advisor and Team Vet, as required.
- 2.10 This information will include, but is not limited to:
 - a detailed summary of actual and average competition scores (taken from the FEI website) from relevant competitions
 - an assessment of anticipated performance based on the data available
 - an assessment of risk factors
 - any specific recommendations regarding the final preparation for combinations should they be selected.

3. Objectives

- 3.1 The prime objective of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential to (in priority order):
 - 3.1.1 Achieve the best possible results for Great Britain with the ultimate goal of developing medal winning capabilities in 2020 and at future championships.
 - 3.1.2 Prepare combinations and, where possible, give them opportunities to compete in International competitions. These scores will enable them to become contenders for consideration for selection for the FEI European Championships 2020.
 - 3.1.3 Enable athlete/horse/pony combinations, where possible, to compete at specific competitions and to assist their performance progression.

4. Eligibility for Consideration for Selection

- 4.1 Athlete/horse/pony combinations are eligible for consideration for selection provided that:
 - the athlete is a British Citizen with a valid British passport valid for at least six months after the date of competition;

- the athlete is a full and active member of BD;
 - the horse/pony is fully registered with BD;
 - both athlete and horse/pony have the appropriate and current FEI licence(s) issued via the application process undertaken by the National Federation of Great Britain in accordance with Article 113 of the FEI General Regulations; and
 - they have satisfied all eligibility and qualification criteria under the BD, BEF and FEI Dressage rules and regulations for the competition.
- 4.2 In advance of the selection meeting the BD U21 International Officer will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain based on the above criteria.

5. Selection Criteria for International Competitions and European Championships

5.1 The Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within the boundaries of the Selection Policy and detailed selection criteria, to use their absolute discretion to select the best athlete/horse/pony combinations to fulfil the objectives of the policy.

5.2 FEI CDIPJYCH/CDIOPJYCH

- 5.2.1 To qualify **to be considered** for CDI competitions combinations need to be achieving the following scores at the relevant level or higher, as specified below:
- 67.5% or above – Pony, Medium
 - 67.5% or above – Junior, Advanced Medium, PSG or Inter I
 - 67.5% or above – Young Rider, PSG or Inter I
 - 69.0% or above – COH, Elementary (any qualifiers, subject to video review)

This will be strictly applied for international shows that take place abroad. For domestic CDIs Selectors can exercise their discretion when considering qualifying criteria in order to ensure that the full quota of places are allocated. All tests must be ridden under FEI rules. Qualification does not guarantee selection.

5.2.2 Once selected, riders must achieve a minimum percentage of 65% in either the Team Test or Individual Test at any CDI competition. Scores gained in a Consolation Test (Team or Individual) or Freestyle to Music Test at a CDI will not be taken into account. Failure to achieve this will result in a reassessment before that combination can be nominated for future CDIs.

5.2.3 As a minimum requirement rider/horse/pony combinations must subsequently fulfil the selection criteria of achieving 67.5% at the relevant level in a PL or test riding day, before they can be considered for or entry into future international competitions abroad.

- for COH riders the above is applicable, but with scores gained at 69% at the level at national competition.

5.2.3 When considering results of athlete/horse/pony combinations who have not competed in FEI international competitions the following will be given due regard:

- demonstration of an ability to achieve a total minimum score in BD Premier League shows relevant to or above the level requested for an international competition weighted 2* or more:
 - 67.5% - Pony, FEI Pony Team Test
 - 67.5% - Junior, Advanced Medium, PSG or Inter I
 - 67.5% - Young Rider, PSG or Inter I
 - 69.0% - COH, Elementary (any qualifiers, subject to video review)
- for CDI's only, Individual test scores achieved at Premier League competitions can also be taken into account, with the exception of COH riders (please refer to Annex 2).
- P/J/YR Individual test results are not taken into consideration for European Championship selection.
- COH Individual test results will be taken into consideration for European Championship selection.

5.3 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (EU-CH-P/COH/J/YR)

5.3.1 To qualify **to be considered** for the EU-CH-P/COH/J/YR combinations need to be achieving scores of 69% or above at the relevant level:

- 69% or above – Pony, FEI Pony Team Test
- 69% or above – Junior, Advanced Medium
- 69% or above – Young Rider, PSG
- 69% or above – COH, Elementary (any qualifiers, subject to video review)

5.3.2 Riders who wish to be considered for selection for the EU-CH-P/J/YR will be expected to compete in three CDI's or a minimum of **two** CDI's and **one** Premier League/compulsory Selectors Observation Trial, with the exception of COH riders (please refer to Annex 2). Riders must achieve scores of 69% and above on a minimum of two occasions. One of the CDI scores should be from an international abroad. Due consideration will be given to recent scores and an upward trajectory, from 69%.

5.3.3 For selection purposes, all tests must be ridden under FEI rules. **From 2020 the FEI rules state that Junior and Young Rider tests may be ridden in either a double or snaffle bridle.** For Children on Horses and Ponies, all classes are to be ridden in a snaffle bridle; only test results where horses/ponies were ridden in snaffle bridles will be considered for selection purposes.

- 5.3.4 The Selectors reserve the right not to select a Team or Individuals for the EU-CH-P/COH/J/YR if, in their opinion and on the basis of relevant evidence, those being considered for selection are unlikely to be in contention for Team or Individual medals.
- 5.3.5 BD will consider funding a Team if team members have achieved 69% or above. Otherwise, Selectors may send individuals if they have achieved 69% or above; however, they will be self-funded.
- 5.4 When making selections, the following criteria are listed and will be considered in priority order:
- 5.4.1 The athlete/horse/pony combination's results and current form based on:**
- athlete/horse/pony combination percentages and results based on team test scores from FEI International competitions and BD Premier Leagues/the compulsory Selectors Observation Trial
 - the consistency of scores gained from **69%** in these competitions
 - an upward trend in scores, as per shows detailed in relevant annexes
 - consideration of the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement
 - consideration of consistency throughout the test.
- 5.4.2 Combinations based abroad:**
- Athlete/horse/pony combinations must be scoring 67.5% (69% for COH) or more at National competitions in their country of residence at the relevant level and subject to competition video approval in order to be considered for selection.
- 5.4.3 The fitness and soundness of the horse/pony to compete to its full potential based on:**
- the professional opinion of the Team veterinary surgeon and/or another veterinary surgeon as nominated by BD
 - the location and physical conditions in which the Championships will be held and the potential impact of those conditions on the horse/pony performance
 - official inspections that may take place at a competition or an athlete's yard in advance of selection meetings
 - the result of any relevant blood tests requested by the Selectors
 - the openness of communication between the athlete's home veterinary surgeon and the BD Team veterinary surgeon to ensure the optimum equine management.
- 5.4.4 The fitness of the athlete to compete to their full potential:**
- athletes must notify BD if their health status in any way impacts upon their ability to compete to their full potential.
 - athletes may be asked to undertake a predetermined and relevant

fitness assessment.

5.4.5 The athlete/horse/pony combination's ability, to support the delivery of the objectives of the policy:

- the athlete/horse/pony combination's likelihood to maximise the probability of achieving the Objectives as set out in Section 3 of the Selection Policy.
- demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play
- willingness of the athlete and his/her personal team to contribute to the objectives of the Selection Policy and abide by any Equestrian Team GBR charter/code of conduct which may be in force at the Championships or elsewhere.

5.5 All selection decisions are subject to the athlete/horse/pony maintaining fitness and performance up to the Championship date. Failure to do this could lead to the athlete/horse/pony combination being substituted.

6. Qualification Period and Designated Events

6.1 The qualification period for athlete/horse/pony combinations will be in accordance with qualification guidelines, which are available at www.fei.org.

6.2 The Selectors may ask athletes and horses/ponies to participate in designated competitions throughout the season where they deem this appropriate and necessary in order to evaluate performance against the selection criteria identified within this policy prior to selection. The ID will inform the athletes concerned and the Chef d'Equipe of the details regarding these requirements.

6.3 Championship team selection will be based on FEI team test results from the major international spring shows that run a CDIOPJYCH and/or CDIPJYCH and a Premier League 'invitational' Selector Observation Trial, as listed in the separate Annexes, 1-3.

- Annex 1 – Junior & Young Riders
- Annex 2 – Children on Horses
- Annex 3 – Pony Riders

Other international results may be taken into account, as may results from the nominated selection competitions, as detailed in the relevant Annex.

7. Selection Process

7.1 Following the achievement of minimum performance standards and, within the timeframes circulated by BD, athletes should submit their requests on the International dates availability form available from the BD U21 International Officer.

7.2 The Selectors will select the requisite number of athlete/horse/pony combinations for

each show. The number will be dictated by the schedule and accompanying FEI Dressage rules.

- 7.3 The PM and Selectors may request to be briefed on fitness of horse/pony and/or athlete. Where that information is available it should be delivered in summary format and not include any personal or sensitive detail. All such information will be treated with utmost confidentiality.
- 7.4 Athletes able to gain private invitations to specific FEI CDI P/J/YR/COH shows should indicate on the International dates availability form, if that is an option available to them. They may be requested to take up that option in order to access additional places. Private invitations should not take priority over an athlete/horse/pony combination selected to compete at a show.
- 7.5 Athletes will be informed if they have been selected to compete at a show or Championship by the BD U21 International Officer (via email) within the timeframes indicated in the show schedule and/or FEI entry system (Definite Entries).
- 7.6 Athletes should confirm their acceptance with the BD U21 International Officer, who will be responsible for submitting the entry on the FEI system prior to Definite Entries. Athletes are responsible for their own costs as indicated within the show schedule unless they are informed otherwise by the Chef d'Equipe / U21 International Officer.
- 7.7 In order to keep athletes informed a show planner indicating athlete/horse/pony combination requests to attend each show/those selected for shows is circulated on a monthly basis by the BD U21 International Officer (via email) to those who have asked to be considered for selection.
- 7.8 Should an athlete have to withdraw prior to Definite Entries the BD U21 International Officer will contact the next athlete on the wait/reserve list.
- 7.9 For the major championships, a team of up to a maximum of four athlete/horse/pony combinations per section (for P/J/YR/COH) will be selected to compete in the Team competition. This may be less in a COH Championship and will be as indicated on the show schedule. The Selectors will also select two reserve combinations which they place in rank order and/or identify specific replacements for the reserves with named selected combinations.
- 7.10 At a selection meeting (see relevant Annex) the Selectors will draw up a short list of a minimum of six and a maximum of ten athlete/horse/pony combinations (per level) in order of ranking. A long list of riders will be drawn up following the CDIJYP Keysoe (March).

- 7.11 If there is a substantive change to the condition/circumstances of an athlete/horse/pony combination in the ranked list, then the Selectors will go to the next combination in order of ranking
- 7.12 At the final selection meeting(s) (see relevant Annex) the Selectors will choose the final team of four combinations plus two reserves (per level) for the EU-CH-P/COH/J/YR 2020 from the list of eight combinations nominated for definite entry to the FEI.
- 7.13 The ID will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors within 24 hours of the selection meeting(s).
- 7.14 The announcement of the nominated entries and final selections with reserves, will be posted on the BD website within three working days, subject to there being no appeals.
- 7.15 Riders and their connections who are notified of their team or reserve place must keep this confidential until it is publicly announced by BD.
- 7.16 Should there be a need for a pre Championship Team Camp, this will be compulsory for the selected Team and Reserves to attend.

8. Withdrawals

- 8.1 Once an athlete has committed to compete at an international show (in writing to the Selectors or BD U21 International Officer) they are expected to compete. However, if they find at any time and for whatever reason that they have to withdraw they are obliged to notify the BD U21 International Officer and Chef d'Equipe immediately.
- 8.2 For CDIOP/J/YR/COH and EU-CH-P/J/YR/COH the Chef d'Equipe/ID and BD U21 International Officer should be notified at the same time. The BD U21 International Officer is responsible for withdrawing the athlete's entry on the FEI system.
- 8.3 After Definite Entries have taken place, and as per FEI rules, a veterinary/medical certificate will be required before a withdrawal is accepted.

9. Substitution

- 9.1 The substitution of an athlete/horse/pony combination from the nominated entry list may occur at any time between the date of Definite Entries and the competition, as per Article 449 1.2 of the FEI Dressage Rules for Championships.
- 9.2 The final decision as to whether to substitute will be made by the ID, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors, with input from the Team Veterinary Surgeon and/or appointed doctor (if deemed appropriate), depending on the specific circumstances.

9.3 The decision to substitute will only be made if, in the professional opinion of the Team Veterinary Surgeon and/or appointed doctor (if deemed appropriate), the athlete/horse/pony combination is "unable to compete in a manner which allows them to produce the standard of performance for which they were selected".

9.4 If an athlete decides at any time and for whatever reason that they wish to withdraw, they are obliged to notify the Chef d'Equipe immediately, who will then notify the ID, Selectors and U21 International Officer.

10. Other Considerations in Support of the Selection Policy

10.1 Conflicts of Interest

10.1.1 In order to protect the integrity of the selection process members of the Selection Panel, both voting and non-voting, shall not take any measure nor exercise any influence in relation to a matter where any conflict of interest or any other conflict exists or is perceived to exist.

10.1.2 Members of the Selection Panel must therefore take all reasonable steps to avoid situations where there may be a potential conflict of interest, whether that is a real or perceived conflict of interest.

10.1.3 All conflicts of interest will be declared to the Independent Chair prior to the meeting so that they can be managed in an appropriate manner. All conflicts of interest will be recorded in the minutes by the Secretariat at the beginning of each meeting. It will be incumbent on the Independent Chair to proactively manage any conflicts on a regular basis and throughout the selection process to ensure the integrity of the selection decisions.

10.2 Confidentiality

10.2.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the athletes, owners, selectors, staff and other parties, that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to any information which may have a bearing on selection.

10.2.2 Any member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection Panel. All selection related conversations and discussions will be confidential.

10.3 Code of Conduct / Team Charter

10.3.1 Athletes, parents/guardians, owners, trainers, grooms and rider support teams are expected to abide by any BD/Equestrian Team GBR charter or Athlete/Parent Code of Conduct which may be in force.

10.3.2 Athletes, parents/guardians, owners, trainers, grooms and rider support teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not negatively affect performance or bring the sport into disrepute.

10.3.3 Any breach in the BD/ BEF Equestrian Team GBR charter or Athlete/Parent Code of Conduct by any rider, parent/guardian or a member of their support teams, including the misuse of social media, will result in disciplinary action and may lead to exclusion from any international involvement.

10.4 **Clean Sport**

10.4.1 Selection is subject to compliance with FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on human anti-doping.

10.5 **Cancellation / Postponement**

10.5.1 In the event of cancellation, the relevant parties will be notified immediately. 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.

10.5.2 In the event of exceptional circumstances (force majeure) beyond the BEF or BD's control, e.g. disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the British Dressage Board, in consultation with the ID and BD Chief Executive, reserves the right to make the decision either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team or Individuals from competition.

10.6 **Policy Changes**

10.6.1 The Selectors will have the right, in exceptional circumstances, to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Policy.

10.6.2 Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the ID and BD CEO. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes by email and the new document, along with the revisions highlighted, will be published on the BD website.

10.7 **Point of Contact**

10.7.1 The ID is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy. The point of contact for riders wishing to discuss their intended competition plans is the Chef d'Equipe.

10.8 Finance

10.8.1 All international competitions, with the exception of the P/COH/J/YR European Championships, will be entirely self-funded by riders. Chef d'Equipes may be named to travel to international competitions and will be appointed for the European Championships. Riders who are working or living abroad, who are selected for a championship team, will be responsible for the cost of their travel to the designated European Championships, either to the showground or to meet up with the appointed official transporters.

10.9 Home Trainers

10.9.1 Home trainers will be expected to work under the direction of and in co-operation with the nominated Team Trainer or Coach Advisor for the benefit of the horse/pony/rider combination. To enable the home trainer and Team Trainer or Coach Advisor to achieve the best results it is anticipated that British based riders attend Squad Training, ideally with their home trainers.

11. Appeals Process and Procedures

- 11.1 Athletes 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.
- 11.2 An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Chief Executive of BD, in accordance with the BD Selection Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process"), within 48 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.
- 11.3 The Chief Executive of BD who 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 facilitated mediation.
- 11.4 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 (within 48 hours of receipt of the notice of appeal) that such discussion/mediation has resolved the appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed. The Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website and copies of the Selection Appeal Rules can be obtained from the BEF office.

Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive
December 2019