

British Dressage Selection Policy for the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships for Young Horses 2020 (Amended August 2020)

1. Definitions

'**Selectors**' – The people appointed by the British Dressage (BD) Board to undertake selections on their behalf for GBR athlete/horse combinations to compete at the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships for Young Horses.

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

'**British Equestrian**' – the Federation who will endorse and nominate athlete/horse combinations to represent GBR as entries to the Championships once selected.

2. Objectives

The objective of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential as follows:

2.1 To win as many individual medals as possible in the five, six and seven year old classes at the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in 2020.

3.0 Confidentiality

3.1 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 information which may have a bearing on selection.

3.2 Any member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection Panel. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

4.0 Selection Panel and Attendees

4.1 The Selection Panel shall be comprised of :

Independent Chair (non-voting), tbc

Chief Selector (voting), Judy Harvey, British Dressage (BD) International Director

Senior Selector (voting), David Trott

Selector (voting), Jenny Ward

Non-Voting Attendee

Performance Analyst and Minute Taker (non-voting) Lianne Martin

4.2 The Independent Chair will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly and in accordance with the Selection Policy. The Chief Executive of British Dressage will maintain a register of declared interests and all members of the Selection Panel will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise, in accordance with Section 11.0 of the Policy. If a member

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of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, has a declared interest during selection, then they must step down from discussion involving the potential or perceived conflict.

- 4.3 All voting Selectors will have equal voting rights. 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. In the event of a majority decision not being achieved or possible, the BD International Director as Chief Selector will have the casting and deciding vote. In the event of the BD International Director being required to abstain due to a declared interest the Senior Selector shall have the casting and deciding vote.
- 4.4 The Selection Panel will be provided, in advance, with relevant performance evidence to support them in their selection decisions. The information will be prepared by the BD International Officer / Performance Analyst.

5.0 Changes in Policy

- 5.1 The Selectors will have the right, in exceptional circumstances, to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfill the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the BD CEO and BD International Director, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld by any party. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the BD International Director by e mail) and will be published on the BD website.
- 5.2 This Policy is subject to any amendments under the current WBFHS guidelines.

6.0 Eligibility

- 6.1 Minimum eligibility and availability requirements to be considered for selection:
- a. The athlete is a British Citizen with a valid British passport valid for at least six months after the date of competition.
 - b. The athlete is a full and active member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD rules.
 - c. The horse is fully registered with BD for 2020.
 - d. The horse owners are fully registered with BD for 2020.
 - e. The athlete and horse 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 and 117 of the FEI General Regulations.
 - f. Neither athletes or horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the FEI WBSFH World Breeding Championships 2020 under the BD, BEF or FEI Dressage rules.
 - g. The Studbook of any selected horse approves the combination (see Section 8.2 of the Policy).
 - h. Horses can only participate in the selection procedure of one National Federation.
- 6.2 Participation
- a. To be able to participate in the Championships athlete/horse combinations must achieve the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) outlined in the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships for Young Horses Guidelines, see

<https://inside.fei.org/node/3821/>

7.0 Qualification Period

- 7.1 The qualification period and any regulations for horses and athletes to compete at the Championships will be in accordance with WFBHS qualification guidelines, which are available at <https://inside.fei.org/node/3821/>

8.0 Selection Process

- 8.1 Throughout the selection process the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within the boundaries of the Selection Policy, having regard to the criteria set out within the Selection Policy, to use their absolute discretion to select athlete and horse combinations in order to best achieve the objective of the Selection Policy (see Section 2.0). They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with integrity, having regard to, and acting in compliance with, any applicable BD and British Equestrian code of conduct or code of ethics in force from time to time.
- 8.2 Combinations wishing to be considered for the Championships should apply via email to the BD International officer by **Monday 24 August 2020** to register their interest stating rider name, horse name and horse age. At the same time they must provide a copy of the breeding information in the horse's passport in order to ensure that WBFSH guidelines are complied with.
- 8.3 Any combinations selected by the BD Selectors for the Championship will have to be approved by the Studbook of the selected horse. British Dressage will process this application on behalf of the athletes.
- 8.4 All combinations selected to represent GB at the Championship will attend and compete at their own expense.
- 8.5 If an athlete decides at any time and for whatever reason that they wish to withdraw from the selection process they are obliged to notify the BD International Director immediately in order that the necessary processes with the Studbooks can be halted.
- 8.6 If a British athlete chooses to participate in the selection procedure of a different National Federation they should inform the BD International Officer immediately.

8.7 Designated Events

To achieve the BD minimum performance standards (see Section 8.8.a.) and in order to be considered for selection athletes have been divided into three categories:

- 8.7.1 British athletes based and competing in the United Kingdom
- Athletes should submit a You Tube link or e mailed link to video footage of the athlete/horse combination riding the appropriately aged FEI Prelim Test to the BD International Officer **by no later than Monday 14 September 2020**. Footage, which does not need to come from a competition, will be viewed and judged independently by the members of the Selection Panel.

- b. Having reviewed the footage and been scored independently by the Selectors combinations who are awarded an average of over 80% (8) in the 5 and 6 year old age groups or an average of over 70% (7) in the 7 year old age group by the Selection Panel will be invited to attend the WBCYH Observation Class/es to be held at the National Young Horse Championships on 2 – 4 October 2020 at Keysoe.
 - c. In order to be considered for selection and to fulfill the World Breeding Championships minimum eligibility requirements (MER) it is compulsory, if invited, to attend and compete in the Observation Classes where the FEI Final Tests will be ridden.
 - d. In order to fulfill the primary objective of the Policy (see Section 2.o) the Selectors reserve the right to use their discretion and invite combinations to attend the WBCYH Observation Class/es.
- 8.7.2 British athletes competing abroad in CDIYH
- a. Athletes should submit a You Tube link or e mailed link to video footage of the athlete/horse combination competing a minimum of once at a CDIYH together with details of the competition and a signed test sheet to the BD International officer by no later than **Monday 5 October 2020**.
 - b. In the event of a CDIYH competition being over subscribed athletes able to obtain a private invitation should inform the BD International officer. Such private invitations have to be approved by the BD International Director in advance.
- 8.7.3 British athletes based and competing abroad
- a. Athletes should submit a You Tube link or e mailed link to video footage of the athlete/horse combination competing a minimum of once at a CDIYH or at a Young Horse competition held at a CDN or equivalent level competition, together with details of the competition and a signed test sheet to the BD International officer by no later than **Monday 5 October 2020**.
 - b. In order to obtain MER (see Section 6.2.a) the level of any national tests used for video footage must be equivalent to the level of the FEI tests for 5, 6 and 7 year old horses. This is to ensure that the selection panel view the required movements at the appropriate level.

Footage of athlete/horse combinations must be of a quality that allows it to be viewed and judged. If of insufficient quality the athlete/horse combination being considered will be rejected.

Provision of video footage, results and the achievement of MER (see section 6.2.a) at any stage of the process does not guarantee a place at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Championships.

8.8 Entries

8.8.1 The Selection Panel will meet between **12 October 2020** to decide upon the final individual combinations (maximum two per age group). In addition the Selectors will place **all** combinations in rank order and/or identify specific replacements for named selected combinations up to a maximum of twelve athlete/horse combinations. All selection decisions will be aligned to achievement of the primary objective of this Policy (see Section 2.o).

8.8.2 The following criteria may be considered when evaluating the athlete/horse combinations and in concluding the Selector's decisions for nominated and final sport entries: Nominated entries will be submitted on 26 October 2020 with final sport Entries being submitted on 16 November 2020.

- a. Athlete/horse combinations need to have achieved at least once one of the BD minimum performance scores outlined below.
 - 5 and 6 year old horses: a total score of minimum 80 %
 - 7 year old horses: a total score of minimum 70%
- b. The anticipated overall performance and development of the athlete/horse combination in order to achieve the objective of the Selection Policy (see Section 2.o).

8.9 Fitness and Soundness of the Athlete/Horse combination

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

8.9.2 Once an athlete and/or horse has been included in the Nominated or Definite Entries athletes are requested to ensure that they inform the BD International Director if either they or their horse's health status is altered in any way that may impact upon their ability to compete to their full potential at the Championships. Failure to do this could lead to the combination being substituted.

8.10 Maintaining form and fitness

Throughout the selection process selection decisions are subject to the athlete and horse maintaining fitness and performance.

9.0 De-Selection / Substitution

9.1 De-selection may occur at any time between the nominated entries being decided upon and the date of the competition, as per Article 449 1.2 of the FEI Dressage Rules for Championships. The final decision as to whether to replace/substitute during this period, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the BD International Director in consultation with the Selectors. The opinion of a professional specialist (a Vet / Doctor approved by BD) may also be sought. This decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity, it will be final and not subject to appeal.

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- 9.2 If there is a substantive change to the condition/circumstances of an athlete/horse combination in ranked list for each age group, then the Selectors will consider the next combination in order of ranking.

10.0 Selection Timelines

- 10.1 The BD International Director will inform all athletes by telephone or direct conversation within a maximum period of 24 hours of the selection decisions having been made.
- 10.2 The announcement of the final combinations selected together with direct reserves, will be posted on the BD website within three working days, subject to there being no appeals.

11.0 Conflicts of Interest

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 All 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.
- 11.3 A Conflicts of Interest register will be maintained by the Chief Executive of British Dressage. All selectors should declare any potential conflict of interest by no later than Monday 14 September 2020, so they can be managed appropriately.
- 11.4 If any member of the Selection Panel has a declared interest that could cause conflict during the selection process, then they must step down from any discussion involving the potential or perceived conflict.
- 11.5 It will be incumbent upon all individuals involved in the selection process to declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. The BD International Chair will proactively manage any conflicts throughout the selection process to ensure that the integrity of selection decisions is maintained at all times.

12.0 Code of Conduct / Charter

- 12.1 Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes' "home teams" are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not negatively affect performance or bring the sport into disrepute.
- 12.2 Athletes and their teams are expected to abide by any BD and/or British Equestrian code of conduct and/or Charter that may be in force .

13.0 Clean Sport

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

14.0 Cancellation/Postponement

14.1 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 athlete/horse combination needs to be selected. In these circumstances all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

14.2 In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BD or the BEF 's control, then the British Dressage Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the British Dressage International Director and BD Chief Executive, either to change the Selection Policy or the process, which might include withdrawing Individuals from the competition (see also Section 5.0).

15.0 Communication (Publication)

15.1 The Selection Policy will be published on the [BEF and] BD website[s] and copies will be available on request from the BD offices.

15.2 Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing (via e-mail) or by telephone to the BD offices.

Appeals Process and Procedures

- 16.1 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. The right to appeal a Selection Decision must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the Selector (s) where the selection procedure and selection criteria have been followed. In reaching their decision the Selector(s) are acting as experts.
- 16.2 An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Chief Executive of British Equestrian, in accordance with the British Equestrian Selection Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process"), within 48 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.

A copy of the Appeal must also be submitted to 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.

- 16.4 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 British Equestrian (within 48 hours of the receipt of the notice of appeal) that such discussion has resolved the appeal, the Appeal process shall be stayed.
- 16.5 The full details of the British Equestrian Appeal Process is set out on the British Equestrian website

<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook>

Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive
British Dressage
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