

# BRITISH EQUESTRIAN PARA DRESSAGE SELECTION POLICY TOKYO 2020 (2021) PARALYMPIC GAMES UPDATED 16/04/2021

## 1.0 Introduction

This policy has been updated and re-issued to reflect the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy reflects the changes in dates and acknowledges that further changes to the selection processes may be necessary, both to select athlete/horse combinations and to remain compliant with government advice and British Paralympic Association (BPA), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and Tokyo 2020 organising committee COVID risk assessment and mitigation policies.

- 1.1 The British Equestrian Para Dressage squad (the “Squad”) for the Tokyo 2020 (2021) Paralympic Games (the “Games”) will be selected by the Selection Panel (the “Selectors”) appointed by British Dressage (BD), endorsed by British Equestrian (BEF), and nominated to the BPA by the BEF for selection to Paralympics GB in 2021.
- 1.2 References to selection for the Games in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations. References to the Squad in this Policy are to be construed accordingly. Additional “reserve” combinations to the Squad will also be referred to.
- 1.3 References to the “Team” relate to the three (3) athlete/horse combinations, selected to compete for the Team medal at the Games as well as the Individual medals. References to the ‘Individual’ relate to the athlete/horse combination that will compete only for the Individual medals.

## 2.0 Objective

The objective of this Selection Policy is to select the four (4) athlete/horse combinations that will deliver the best possible result for ParalympicsGB at the Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the best result relates to the maximum number of gold, then silver, then bronze medals achievable.

## 3.0 Selection Panel and attendees

- 3.1 The Games Paralympic Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Independent Chair (non-voting), Sarah Rowell  
Chief Selector (voting), Carolyn Gardiner  
Senior Selector (voting), Joyce Head  
Selector (voting), Jane McGarel Groves

Non-Voting Experts present at the Paralympic Selection Meeting  
*(The individual experts' opinion may be sought by the Selectors and they may contribute to discussions, but they will not have a vote at the point of selection).*

WCP Para Dressage Performance Manager (PM), Georgina Sharples  
WCP Team Veterinary Surgeon, Robert Oulton  
Second Opinion Veterinary Surgeon (if required)  
Performance Coach (if required), Angela Weiss, Nina Venables  
WCP Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Pippa Bennett

Minute Taker  
BD Para Dressage and International Officer, Natasha Pearce

#### **Independent Observers (non – voting) who may attend the Selection Meeting**

BEF CEO, Jim Eyre  
BEF Performance Director (PD), Richard Waygood, or appointed representative  
UK Sport Representative  
BPA Representative

The Independent Chair will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly and in accordance with the selection policy. The Chief Executives of British Dressage and British Equestrian will maintain a register of declared interests and all members of the Selection Panel will declare any conflicts as soon as they arise, in accordance with Section 18 of the Policy. If a member 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. The register will be provided to the Independent Chair at all selection meetings.

- 3.2 All 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 Chief Selector will have the casting and deciding vote. In the event of the Chief Selector being required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest, the Senior Selector will have the casting and deciding vote.
- 3.3 The WCP Team Veterinary Surgeon (Team Vet) and Second Opinion Veterinary Surgeon will be non-voting members of the Selection Panel present, whose opinion may be sought in relation to things such as soundness, assessment of risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.
- 3.4 The WCP Chief Medical Officer will attend the selection meeting if required and will, in any case, provide such information as necessary to enable Selectors to make a rational decision on an athlete's injury status, and/or assessed ability to complete the Games.

- 3.5 The PD (or appointed representative) may attend the nomination meeting and final selection meeting and will be responsible for the final submission of athlete/horse combination names by the BEF to the BPA.
- 3.6 The Selection Panel will be provided, in advance, with relevant scores (obtained from the FEI website) and performance evidence to support them in their selection decisions. The information will be provided by the BEF WCP team in consultation with, and ratified by, the WCP Head of Performance Support or designated other.

#### **4.0 Policy formation**

The British Equestrian Selection Policy for the Games is compiled in consultation with the Para Dressage Selectors, Para Dressage WCP athletes, BD Chief Executive Officer (CEO), PD, Para Dressage PM and representatives from the BPA and UK Sport.

#### **5.0 Changes in Policy**

The Selectors will have the right, in circumstances the Selectors deem to be exceptional, to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Policy, including (but not limited to) as a result of COVID-19. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the PM, PD (or appointed representative) and BEF and BD CEOs, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld by any party. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to WCP athletes (by the BD Para Dressage and International Officer by e-mail) and will be published on the BEF and BD websites.

#### **6.0 Minimum Eligibility Requirements**

6.1. Minimum eligibility and availability requirements to be considered for selection:

- a. The athlete must be a national of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in compliance with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 119. Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire within six (6) months of the conclusion of the Games.
- b. The athlete must have been granted a licence by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
- c. The athlete must be eligible under any anti-doping code e.g. not serving a competition ban as a result of human or equine doping or controlled medication violation, or other breach of ethical conduct and not in receipt of a lifetime ban from UKAD.
- d. The athlete must be a full and active member of BD, e.g. not serving any suspension under BD rules.

- e. The horse must be fully registered with BD for 2021.
- f. Neither athletes or horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the 'Games' under BEF, BPA, FEI, BD or IPC rules.
- g. All athletes being considered for selection will be deemed to have accepted that they, their horses and support teams will be required to take part in pre-export quarantine.
- h. All athletes will be expected to comply with reasonable requests intended to support optimal performance preparation for themselves and their horses, in particular but not limited to, those specifically aligned to the anticipated environmental conditions and competition format.

6.2 To be eligible to participate in the Equestrian Events of the Games:

- a. All athletes must be internationally classified with a 'confirmed' sport class status or a 'review' sport class status and a review date after 31 December 2021.
- b. All athlete/horse combinations must have achieved, as a combination, the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) with an FEI Certificate of Capability (as outlined in FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Article 622): <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/paralympic/tokyo-2020>
- c. A horse must have been born on or before 31 December, 2015 (6 years of age) the age being counted from 1 January of the year of birth.
- d. All athletes must have been born on or before 31 December, 2005 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Article 606.1.2).
- e. All horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Games must have been registered with the FEI by the time of Final Entries (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Article 606.2.2).
- f. All horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Games must have a valid FEI passport, or an FEI approved national passport with a valid FEI recognition card as a means of identification and to establish ownership. These documents must be duly completed and correct at the time of competition. (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Article 606.2.3)
- g. No commercial prefix or suffix will be included with the name of horse on any Paralympic participation/entry list, start list or results. The FEI reserves the right to amend any horse's name accordingly (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, Article 606. 2.4).

## 7.0 Qualification period

The qualification period for Teams and Individuals will be in accordance with the FEI qualification guidelines, (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Article 622): <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/paralympic/tokyo-2020>

## 8.0 Selection process

8.1 Throughout the selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled, within the boundaries of this Selection Policy, and having regard to the criteria set out within the Selection Policy, to use their absolute discretion to select athlete/horse combinations onto either Nominated Entry List and/or the Squad and/or the Team in order to best achieve the objectives of the Selection Policy [See Section 2.0.] They will at all times use their discretion honestly and act with integrity, having regard to and acting in compliance with, any applicable BEF and BD code of conduct or code of ethics in force at the time.

8.2 Designated events: **UPDATED**

Scores from the following designated events will be considered by the Selectors (see 11.0 selection criteria)

- ~~○ The 2021 BD Equissage Pulse Para Winter Championships (Myerscough College, UK)~~
- ~~○ 26–28 March 2021~~
- ~~○ CPEDI3\* Competition (Waregem, Belgium) 23–25 April 2021~~
- ~~○ CPEDI3\* Competition (Deauville, France) 13–16 May 2021~~
- Para Dressage Elite Athlete Selection Event (Wellington, UK) 13th – 16th May 2021
- The 2021 BD British Para Gold Semi Final (Wellington, UK) 9–11 June 2021
- CPDI3\* Competition (Kronenberg, Holland) 10–13 June 2021
- CPEDI3\* Competition (Hartpury, UK) 7–11 July 2021

In the event of the cancellation of any/all of the ‘designated selection events’ or circumstances that prevent British athletes from travelling to these events, the BEF reserve the right to include a domestic ‘designated selection event’ in addition to the selection criteria in 11.0

8.3 A number of CPEDI3\* invitations for Waregem and/or Deauville and Kronenberg 2021 will be issued by the Selectors. Invitations will be prioritised against the performance needs of an athlete/horse combination, the opportunity to view combinations against their foreign competitors and to provide competition exposure for combinations in consideration for the Games. [Subject to decisions regarding the viability of team travel during the COVID pandemic.](#)

- 8.4 Athletes should refer to the BD rulebook/website for details of the competition dates and points-based qualification process for the domestic championships referred to in 8.2. The Selectors reserve the right to invite athlete/horse combinations who have not qualified for these championships to compete *Hors Concours* so that their results can be considered as part of the selection process.
- 8.5 The PM and PD (or appointed representative), in collaboration with the Selectors, may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training or Paralympic preparation days. The PM will inform the athletes concerned of the details regarding these requirements. Participation will be compulsory except under exceptional circumstances agreed with the PM.

## 9.0 Nominations

The Selectors will meet on or around Tuesday 15th June 2021 and, in consultation with the Selection Panel, will recommend to the BEF an appropriate number of athlete/horse combinations – a maximum of twelve (12) combinations – to be submitted to the BPA who will enter them onto the FEI Nominated Entry List no later than 5 July 2021.

## 10.0 Final Selection

The Selectors will meet on or around Tuesday 13 July 2021 and, in consultation with the Selection Panel, will evaluate the athlete/horse combinations submitted on the FEI Nominated Entry List and from those will recommend to the BEF a maximum of four (4) athletes and four (4) horses (the “Squad”) to travel to the Games plus reserves (which may or may not be in order of preference). For the avoidance of doubt, five (5) horses will travel to Liege and four (4) horses will travel on to the Games. The recommendations will be forwarded to the BPA for ratification prior to submission to the OCOG by no later than the Tokyo Sport Entry Deadline of 2 August 2021.

The Squad and reserves will be required to comply with all quarantine requirements.

## 11.0 Selection Criteria

In both the Nominated (9.0) and Final Selection (10.0) Meetings, the following criteria will be considered by the Selection Panel:

- a. Scores from designated events (see 8.2) during the period of 1 January 2021 up to 11 July 2021.
- b. Results obtained at CPEDI 3\* Events from 1 July 2019 up to and including 31 December 2020.
- c. Athlete/horse combinations whose scores most closely demonstrate Tokyo 2020 (2021) medal winning potential in their grade. (Medal winning based on 2018 World Games and 2019 European Championship individual medal scores and Tokyo 2020 (2021) predicted scores).
- d. The current trend in scores internationally within a grade.

- e. Demonstrable ability of the athlete/horse combination to produce Peak Performances in high pressure competitions (demonstrated in previous Paralympic Games, World Games, European Championship and/or international competitions).
- f. Fitness and soundness of the horse where the advice of the Team Vet and or independent/second opinion veterinary surgeon may be sought.
- g. Fitness of the athlete, where the advice of the WCP Chief Medical Officer and other relevant personnel (WCP Para Dressage Physiotherapist/WCP Head of Athlete Health) may be sought.
- h. Behaviour of the athlete and the athlete's home team indicative of a willingness to work with the WCP performance support team in pursuit of achieving the objectives of the Selection Policy, and a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.

## 12.0 Fitness and soundness of the horse

12.1 Horses that are candidates for selection for the Games may be examined for fitness/soundness at any time during the selection process, by the WCP Vet (or another appointed veterinary surgeon if necessary). In addition, horses may, more specifically, be inspected before the Nomination and Final Sport Entry meetings. Examination and inspections may include the taking of blood for pre-Games testing.

12.1.1 Athletes are obliged to notify the WCP Team Vet of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the WCP Team Veterinary Surgeon to ensure that selectors can make rational decisions and specific support can be instigated where required.

12.1.2 Once a horse has been placed on the Nominated Entry List or the Final Sport Entry List, athletes are required to ensure that the WCP Team Vet is informed of any changes/treatments taking place in the horse's veterinary plan before the announcement of the Squad and, if selected, before departure to the Games.

## 13.0 Fitness of the athlete

13.1 Athletes that are candidates for selection for the Games may be requested to take a pre-determined and relevant fitness test at any time during the selection process. The decision to request a fitness test will be at the discretion of the Selectors in consultation with the PM/PD (or appointed representative). The test criteria will be determined by the WCP Performance Support Team led by the PM/PD (or appointed representative) with input from the WCP Chief Medical Officer, and/or WCP Head of Athlete Health, and/or Para Dressage physiotherapist, and available on request.

13.2 Athletes are required to notify the WCP CMO and/or Para Dressage Physiotherapist of any change in their health status or management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate openness of communication between their own medical/fitness team and the WCP CMO Para Dressage Physiotherapist to ensure that Selectors can make rational decisions and specific support can be instigated where required.

13.2.1 Once an athlete has been placed on the Nominated Entry List or the Final Sport Entry List, they are required to ensure that the WCP CMO and/or Para Dressage Physiotherapist is informed if any change to their health status in any way impacts upon their ability to compete to their full potential.

#### 14.0 Maintaining Form and Fitness

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

#### 15.0 Selection Timelines

15.1 The Chief Selector will inform the PD and PM immediately on any selection decisions having been made.

15.2 The PM will inform all athletes being considered for selection of the decisions of Selectors by telephone or direct conversation within a maximum period of 24 hours of the selection decisions having been made.

15.3 The athletes and horses to be submitted as the Final Sport Entry List (the Squad) plus reserves (which may or may not be in order of preference) will be informed on or around 13 or 14 July 2021. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until they are formally notified of the BPA's ratification of their selection by the PM/PD and agree to abide by the requirements of a BPA Team Announcement.

15.4 The BPA in consultation with the PM/PD (or appointed representative) will announce the Squad for the Games on an agreed date. Following this announcement, the athletes/horses will also be announced on the BEF and BD websites.

#### 16.0 Team selection

16.1 NPCs that have qualified four (4) athletes must declare after the Individual Tests which three (3) Athletes will compete as Team Members.

16.2 During the Final Selection Meeting (9.2) the Selectors will discuss and nominate the proposed likely three (3) Team Members from the Squad of four (4). In accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) post the Individual Team Tests in Tokyo 2020 the Chief Selector, in consultation with the Selectors, PM, WCP Team Vet, WCP CMO/ParalympicsGB CMO (if appropriate) will confirm the three



(3) athletes who will compete in the Team Test on the basis of the health of the athletes/horses, their ability to perform to their maximum potential following assessment and reflecting on individual performance. Such decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity, it will be final and will not be subject to appeal. The PM will inform the athletes accordingly.

## 17.0 Conditions of remaining selected

- 17.1 Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected at either the Nominated Entry or Final Selection stage, they must maintain their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme to be agreed with the PM. Failure to do so, or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM, may result in the athlete/horse being de-selected.
- 17.2 It will be expected that selected and reserve athletes and their grooms adhere to all requested training preparation, quarantine, media and team meeting arrangements. Training preparation will include optimal performance preparation for athletes, grooms and horses aligned to anticipated environmental conditions and competition format at the Games. Failure to do so may result in the athlete being de-selected.

## 18.0 Deselection

- 18.1 Deselection of a Squad member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Squad and the BPA Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) with Tokyo 2020 on or around the 15 August 2021 (TBC). The final decision as to whether to replace/substitute during this period, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the PM and Selectors, in consultation with the PD (or appointed representative), the WCP TeamVet and/or the WCP CMO (as appropriate) and ParalympicsGB Chef de Mission (CdM). This decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity, it will be final and will not be subject to appeal.
- 18.2 After the BPA Delegation Registration Meeting with the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee on or around 15 August 2021, deselection/replacement /substitutions to the Team may only be made by the ParalympicsGB CdM or appointed representative, in consultation with the PM and in accordance with the IPC Late Athlete Replacement Policy (see 17.0). This decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity, it will be final and will not be subject to appeal.
- 18.3 In the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, the decision will be made following an examination by a WCP-approved Human SSSM Practitioner. This may involve the athlete being asked to ride certain dressage movements. Being unfit to compete is best described as “not being able to ride their horse in a manner which allows the athlete to produce the standard of performance at which they were selected, for the duration of the competition”.

18.4 In the case of a horse being considered unfit to compete, the decision will be made following an examination by the WCP Team Vet or another WCP-approved veterinarian. This may involve the athlete/horse combination being asked to ride certain dressage movements. Being unfit to compete is best described as “not being able to perform to the performance standard anticipated and at which they were selected, for the duration of the competition”.

## 19.0 Substitution

19.1 “Substitutions” (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Article 609) are defined as follows:

- 19.1.1 Substitution 1 – an athlete and or horse from the FEI Nominated Entry list between the date of Final Entries (2 August 2021) until completion of the Sport Entries sign off conducted during the BPA’s Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) on or around the 15 August 2021.
- 19.1.2 Substitution 2 – for Teams needing to substitute a Team athlete and or Team horse with an Individual athlete and or Individual horse is permitted in the period between the declaration of starters and up to two (2) hours before the scheduled starting time of the Team Test Competition (first grade to go in the Team Test).

## 20.0 Conflicts of interest

20.1 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.

20.2 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.

- 20.2.1 A Conflicts of Interest register will be maintained by the Chief Executives of British Dressage and British Equestrian. All Selectors, team officials and World Class personnel, whether contractors or staff, should declare any potential conflict of interest by 28 February 2021, so they can be managed appropriately.

20.3 If any member of the Selection Panel, team official or World Class Programme personnel 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.

- 20.3.1 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 PD, in consultation with the BEF and BD CEOs, will proactively manage any conflicts throughout the selection process to ensure that the integrity of selection decisions is maintained at all times.

## **21.0 Confidentiality**

- 21.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for athletes, owners, grooms, Selectors, staff and associated parties, that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.
- 21.2 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.

## **22.0 Code of Conduct/Charter**

- 22.1 Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes' "home teams" are expected at all times to behave in a manner that does not potentially negatively affect performance or bring into disrepute the sport, ParalympicsGB, BEF, the World Class Programme or BD, and at all times in accordance with the ParalympicsGB Team Members' Agreement, the British Equestrian Charter and the BD Code of Conduct.
- 22.2 Athletes selected will be required to sign the ParalympicsGB Team Member Agreement.

## **23.0 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.

## **24.0 Cancellation/Postponement**

- 24.1 In the event of cancellation of the Games, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation may arise where a new or different squad needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedures for selection followed wherever possible.
- 24.2 In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF, BD or BPA's control, the BEF Board reserves the right to make decisions following consultation with the PM/PD (or appointed representative), Selectors, BPA and CEO of the BEF, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include the withdrawing of the British Team from competition. (See also Section 5.0)

## **25.0 Communication (Publication)**

- 25.1 The Selection Policy will be published on the BEF and BD websites, and copies will be available on request from the BEF/BD offices.
- 25.2 Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing (via email) or by telephone to the BD/BEF offices.

## 26.0 Appeals Process and procedures

- 26.1 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 the 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 Selectors where the selection procedure and selection criteria have been followed. In reaching their decision the Selectors are acting as experts.
- 26.2 An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the CEO of the BEF, in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeals Rules (the “Appeals Process”), within 48 hours of the athlete being informed of the Selectors’ decision.
- 26.3 A copy of the appeal must also be submitted to the CEO of BD. The CEO of BD shall, on receipt of the notice of appeal, seek to bring together all parties for a without prejudice discussion.
- 26.4 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.
- 26.5 One of the overriding objectives of the BEF Appeals Procedure is to enable the BEF to deal with selection appeals as quickly as is reasonably possible. Any Appeals Process will therefore be dealt with on an expedited basis with the aim being (to the extent possible) to complete the Appeals Process prior to the Tokyo Sport Entry Deadline of 2 August 2021.
- 26.6 The Appeal Process is set out on the British Equestrian website here:  
<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook>