

British Dressage Selection Policy for the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships for Young Horses 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Athlete/horse combinations for the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships for Young Horses will be selected by the Selection Panel (" the Selectors"), appointed by the British Dressage (BD) Board and will be nominated by British Equestrian (BEF) to represent the Federation at the Championships.
- 1.2. References to selection for the Championships refer to a maximum of two (2) combinations per age group (five, six and seven year old) and any additional reserves.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The objective of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential 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 2021.

3.0 Selection Panel and Attendees

3.1 The Selection Panel shall be comprised of :

Independent Chair (non-voting), tbc
Chief Selector (voting), Judy Harvey, British Dressage International Director
Senior Selector (voting), David Trott
Selector (voting), Jenny Ward

Non-Voting Attendee

Performance Analyst and Minute Taker (non-voting) Lianne Martin, BD International Officer.

- 3.2 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 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.
- 3.3 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 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 will have the casting and deciding vote.
- 3.4 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.

4.0 Confidentiality

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.

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, including (but not limited to) as a result of COVID-19. This may include alternatives to the selection criteria (Section 8.0), as a necessary response to (including but not limited to) the impact of COVID-19 /EHV on the international competition calendar, including any travel restrictions, to enable the Objectives of the Policy to be fulfilled. Any such alternatives would be communicated to the athletes at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.2 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.

5.3 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 must be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with a valid UK passport valid for at least six months after the date of competition.
 - b. The athlete has been granted a licence by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with the FEI General Regulations, 23rd Edition Articles 113 and 117.
 - c. The athlete is eligible under any anti-doping code ie not serving a competition ban as a result of a proven human or equine anti-doping or controlled medication violation, or other breach of ethical conduct.
 - d. The athlete is a full and active member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD rules.
 - e. The horse is fully registered with BD for 2021.
 - f. The horse owners are fully registered with BD for 2021.
 - g. 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.

- h. The Studbook of any selected horse approves the combination (see Section 8.2 of the Policy).
- i. Horses may only participate in the selection procedure and process of **one** National Federation (see Section 8.6).

6.2 Participation

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

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 Designated Events

To achieve the BD minimum performance standards (see Section 8.5.a.) and in order to be considered for selection there are three routes available to athletes.

8.2.1 British athletes based in the United Kingdom

a. Athlete / horse combinations will be expected to compete at:

Stage 1: One or more of the qualifying competitions listed below:

- Keysoe Premier League, Bedfordshire on 23-25 April
- Myerscough College Premier League, Lancashire, 30 April – 5 May
- All England Dressage Festival Premier League (Hickstead) 21-23 May
- Somerford Park Premier League, Cheshire 28-30 May
- Wellington Premier League, Hampshire – 09-13 June
- Vale View Premier League, Leicestershire 16-19 June

Stage 2: The final selection trial (if qualified) to be held at:

- Hartpury Premier League, Gloucestershire, 7-11 July

b. An athlete may submit a request to the BD International Director (representing the Selectors) for a waiver to these designated events.

- c. The Selectors will approve or reject the request based on the following criteria:
 - an athlete/horse combination has previously demonstrated proven ability based on actual results during the FEI qualification period as outlined <https://inside.fei.org/node/3821/> (see Section 7.0 of the policy).
 - The circumstances, fact and in the case of illness or injury to athlete or horse, documentation provided by a Veterinary Surgeon and/or Doctor approved by BD, that would impact on their ability to be considered for selection.
- d. The Selectors reserve the right to use their discretion and invite combinations to attend the final selection trial in order to fulfill the primary objective of the Policy (see Section 2.0).

8.2.2 British athletes competing abroad

- a. Athlete / horse combinations will be expected to provide video evidence of competing a minimum of once at a CDIYH to be sent via an e mailed link, together with details of the competition and a signed test sheet to the BD International officer by 4 July.
- a. 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.

8.2.3 British athletes based abroad

- a. Athlete / horse combinations will be expected to provide video evidence of competing a minimum of once at a CDIYH or at an Young Horse competition at a CDN or equivalent level competition to be sent via an e mailed link, together with details of the competition and a signed test sheet to the BD International officer by 4 July.

8.3 Participation in the final selection trial, provision of video evidence, results and/or the achievement of MER (See Section 6.2.a.) does not guarantee a place at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Championships.

8.4 Conditions of being Selected

- 8.4.1 Combinations wishing to be considered for the Championships should apply via email to the BD International officer by 1 June 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.
- 8.4.2 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.
- 8.4.3 All athletes being considered for selection will be deemed to have accepted that, should they be selected to represent GB at the Championship, they will attend and compete at their own expense.

- 8.4.4 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 Officer immediately in order that the necessary processes with the Studbooks can be halted.
- 8.4.5 If a British athlete chooses to participate in the selection procedure of a different National Federation they should inform the BD International Officer immediately.

8.5 Entries

The Selection Panel will meet week commencing 11 July to decide upon the final individual combinations (maximum two per age group). In addition the Selectors will place **all** combinations in consideration in rank order and/or identify specific replacements for named selected combinations up to a maximum of twelve athlete/horse combinations who will be the Nominated Entries. All selection decisions will be aligned to achievement of the primary objective of this Policy (see Section 2.0).

The following criteria may be considered when evaluating the athlete/horse combinations and in concluding the Selector's decisions for nominated and definite entries:

- a. Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved at least once one of the BD minimum performance scores outlined below. Scores to be achieved in the FEI Young Horse Prelim or FinaleTest relevant to their age group during the current season.

BD National Competitions and /or Foreign national classes:

- 5 and 6 year old horses: a total score of minimum 80 %
- 7 year old horses: a total score of minimum 70%

International CDIYH

- 5 and 6 year old horses: a total score of minimum 75%
- 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 2.0).

8.6 Fitness and Soundness of the Athlete/Horse combination

Once an athlete and/or horse has been included in the Nominated or Definite Entries list athletes are obliged to 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

8.7 Maintaining form and fitness

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

9.0 Selection Timelines

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 The announcement of the final athlete/horse combinations selected for definite entries together with direct reserves and owners, will be posted on the BD website within three working days, subject to there being no appeals.

10.0 De-Selection / Substitution

- 10.1 De-selection may occur at any time between the definite 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.
- 10.2 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.

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 30 May , 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 Independent 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 Collective Confidentiality

- 12.1 To protect the integrity of the Selection Policy and process it is vitally important that all parties involved recognize that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to any information that may have a bearing on selection and/or selection decisions.

13.0 Code of Conduct / Charter

- 13.1 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 into disrepute the sport.
- 13.2 Athletes and their teams are expected to abide by any British Equestrian Charter and the BD Code of Conduct that may be in force. Failure to do so may result in any selection decisions regarding an athlete being impacted negatively or if already selected could result in de-selection.

14.0 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.

15.0 Cancellation/Postponement

15.1 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.

15.2 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).

16.0 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.

16.3 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>

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Chief Executive
British Dressage
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