

FEI Dressage European Championships Riesenbeck, Germany, 4 – 10 September 2023 Senior Selection Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is the British Equestrian Dressage Selection Policy for the 2023 FEI Dressage European Championships (the “**Championship**”). The British Equestrian Dressage team for the Championship will be selected by the British Dressage (“BD”) Selectors (the “**Selectors**”), in accordance with this Policy. Once selected, the team will be entered and supported by British Equestrian (“BEF”) through its World Class Programme (“WCP”).

2. Objectives

- 2.1. The Selectors shall select (in accordance with this Selection Policy) the athlete/horse combinations that in their view will most likely achieve at the Championship the objectives set out in this section of the Selection Policy (“**the Objectives**”).
 - a. **Primary objective:** To medal in the Team and Individual competitions at the FEI Dressage European Championships.
 - b. **Secondary objective:** To provide the necessary experience for athletes and / or horses at the Championships to prepare and develop combinations for the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

3. Outcome of Selection Process

- 3.1. The Selectors shall select a team of up to a maximum of four (4) athlete/horse combinations who will compete at the Championships.
- 3.2. The Selectors may also select several reserve athlete/horse combinations (“**Reserve Combinations**”). The selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order.

4. Selection criteria

- 4.1. The Selectors will consider the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion and expert opinion to select athlete/horse combinations onto the squad/team. They must, at all times, use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.
 - a. The athlete/horse combination’s results. Due regard will be given to:
 - i. Scores (obtained from the FEI website) from all CDI/CDIO 3*, 4*, 5* and CDI-W competitions held during the period 1 January 2023 up to and including the selection meeting dates (nomination and definite respectively) with the emphasis on: Grand Prix (Team medal opportunity), followed by the Grand Prix Special (Individual medal opportunity), and finally the Grand Prix Freestyle (Individual medal opportunity).
 - ii. The Short Grand Prix will be given secondary consideration over any Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special scores.
 - ii. Scores achieved from 1 January 2022 up to and including 31 December 2022 (following the same priorities outlined in Section 4.1.a.i.) will be given tertiary consideration.

- iii. The performance trajectory.
 - iv. The experience and standing of the judges in relevance to the Championships.
 - v. The quality and competitiveness of the starters.
 - vi. The likely contribution of the combination to win medals or achieve the objectives set out in Section 2.0.
 - vii. Consideration of the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement from 1 January 2023 up to and including the Championships entry dates (nomination and definite respectively).
- b. The ability of the athlete/horse combination to produce peak performance under high pressure conditions. In the interests of “proven ability” the selectors reserve the right to include a less experienced combination within the team in order to prepare and develop combinations for the Paris Olympic Games.
 - c. The commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Championships, as agreed in discussion with the PD/PM, Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet) and Human Athlete Health Team, for each combination’s specific requirements to compete to full potential in the environment.
 - d. Fitness and soundness of the horse: The professional opinion of the Team Vet, or another appointed veterinary surgeon will be sought. Athletes are obliged to notify the Team Vet of any change in their horse’s health status or veterinary management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the Team Vet. The selection process examinations may include the taking of bloods for pre-Championship testing including pre-elective testing.
 - e. Fitness of the human athlete. An athlete must declare to the WCP Chief Medical Officer or Lead of Athlete Health any current or ongoing physical or mental reason that may impair their ability to perform at any time arising and/or which may require further support. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
 - f. Behaviour of the athlete and those associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
 - g. The athlete and/or owner’s commitment to make their horse available as a reserve both travelling and non-travelling to the Championships.
 - h. Willingness of the athlete and their home team (i.e. owners, coaches, sports science and medical staff, grooms and others that may be assisting the athlete in the build up to and during the Championships) to contribute to the objectives of the Selection Policy, and to abide by any [British Equestrian Team Charter](#) and [BD Code of Conduct](#) that may be in force.
 - i. The Selectors, in collaboration with the PD/PM, may at their absolute discretion, ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, tests or competitions, where they deem this appropriate to selection decisions being made. The PM will inform details of the necessary requirements to those athletes concerned.

5. Eligibility, availability, and conditions for consideration for selection

- 5.1. All athlete/horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete with the BEF to be considered for selection at the Championships within the timeframes set out in 7.1.
- 5.2. The registration form can be found [here](#).
- 5.3. The BD International Officer will ensure that each athlete and horse put forward to the Selectors as being available for selection for the Championships is eligible to represent Great Britain at the Championships, including that:

- a. The athlete is a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in compliance with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) General Regulations, 24th Edition, Article 119 at the time of the application, selection and until the conclusion of the Championship.
- b. The athlete holds a valid UK passport that does not expire within the six (6) month period following the conclusion of the Championship.
- c. The athlete has been granted a license by the National Federation of Great Britain (the BEF) to compete in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
- d. The athlete is eligible under any anti-doping code (i.e., not serving a competition ban as a result of a proven doping or controlled medication violation), is not serving a competition ban as a result of any breach of any ethical code or misconduct and is not in receipt of a funding ban from UK Sport.
- e. The athlete is a Full (Competing) and active member of BD and not serving any suspensions under BD and/or BEF rules.
- f. The owner is an active member (Competing or Non-Competing) of BD and not serving any suspension under BD and/or BEF rules.
- g. The athlete is fully registered with the FEI for 2023.
- h. The horse is fully registered with BD and the FEI for 2023.
- i. The athlete and horse each satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria, as defined in the FEI Regulations, and are not, for any reason, ineligible to take part in the Championship under FEI, BEF or BD rules.
- j. The athlete and horse comply with FEI and BEF equine anti-doping and controlled medication and FEI, UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules on human anti-doping which may be in force at any time during the selection process and throughout the Championship.

6. Qualification period

- 6.1. The qualification period for horses and athletes to compete will be in accordance with FEI regulations which are available at www.fei.org.

7. Process and Timelines

- 7.1. The nominated entries:
 - a. Athletes wishing to be considered for selection must enter their details on the [Register of Interest to Compete](#).
 - b. The [Register of Interest to Compete](#) at the **Championships** will close exactly two (2) weeks before the nominated entries selection meeting date and only athletes on this list will be considered for selection.
 - c. On or around **TBC** (subject to the FEI nominated entry date), the Selectors will select a list of nominated entries (the “**Nominated Entries**”), which will be up to a maximum of eight (8) athlete/horse combinations, from which the Team will subsequently be selected. The Selectors may also select several reserve athlete/horse combinations to the list of eight (8) at this stage.
 - d. Athletes will be subsequently informed of the nomination meeting selection outcomes by the BD International Director (“ID”) at the end of the selection meeting.
 - e. Athletes will have the right to appeal any selection decision within 48 hours of being informed of the decision.

- f. The **Nominated Entries** will be submitted on the nominated entry date (and subject to receiving the FEI official schedule with confirmation of the nominated entry date).
- 7.2. The Definite entries:
 - a. On or around **TBC** (subject to the FEI definite entry date), the Selectors will select from the nominated entry list:
 - i. The **“Team”**, the four athlete/horse combinations to compete at the Championship.
 - ii. **“Reserve Combinations”** as deemed required.
 - iii. The Selectors may, but are not obliged to, place Reserve Combinations in rank order.
 - b. The Athlete/Horse combinations selected in accordance with 7.2.a. will form the definite entries (the **“Definite Entries”**)
 - c. Athletes will be subsequently informed of the Definite Entry selection meeting selection outcomes by the ID.
 - d. The 48hr window for appeals starts at the time the Athlete is informed of the selection decision.
 - e. The **“Team”** will be submitted at the definite entry date (and subject to receiving the FEI official schedule with confirmation of the definite entry date).

8. Confidentiality & Code of Conduct

- 8.1. It is vitally important for the integrity of this Selection Policy and its operation, and out of respect for the athletes, owners, Selectors, staff, and other parties involved in this selection process for the Championship, that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection and/or selection decisions.
- 8.2. Any Selector or individual attending a Selection Meeting, whether voting or non-voting, who breaches that confidentiality may be removed as a Selector and prohibited from attending Selection Meetings. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

9. The Selection Panel

- 9.1. A non-voting Independent Chair of Selectors and two (2) voting Selectors will be appointed by either the WCP Performance Director (**“PD”**) & the BD Chief Executive Officer (**“CEO”**), or by an interview panel comprising the PD, the PM, the CEO of BD and a board member from BD or a relevant substitution, should any of the named positions not be available.
- 9.2. A third voting Selector may automatically be appointed from their position on the Member body Board as International Director (**“ID”**).
- 9.3. Throughout this Selection Policy the term **“Selectors”** refers to the Independent Chair of Selectors and the three (3) voting Selectors.
- 9.4. The voting Selectors will all have the knowledge and experience required to select Championship teams and will be free from any vested interest or conflict of interest in so far as is possible.
- 9.5. All Selectors must declare any potential or perceived or actual interest or conflict of interest in the selection process as soon as they arise to BD. The International Officer will be responsible for keeping the Independent Chair of Selectors informed.
- 9.6. The Independent Chair of Selectors will ensure that:
 - a. The voting Selectors are aware of the selection criteria set out in this Selection Policy.
 - b. The process set out in this Policy by which the athlete/horse combinations are selected for the Championship is followed correctly at Selection Meeting(s).

- 9.7. Conflicts of interest to be confirmed and declared at the start of selection meetings to allow the Chair to check and manage any issues.
- 9.8. If any interest or conflict of interest on the part of a voting Selector exists, the Independent Chair of Selectors may vary the process set out in this Policy as they see fit, including by requiring any conflicted voting Selector to recuse themselves from any discussion or vote or Selection Meeting.
- 9.9. The Selectors so appointed comprise:
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| a. Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting) | Sarah Rowell |
| b. Selector (voting) | Judy Harvey (BD International Director) |
| c. Selector (voting) | Jenny Ward |
| d. Selector (voting) | Anne Keen |
- 9.10. The PD, or a nominated representative of the PD (as agreed with the CEOs of BD and the BEF), shall attend Selection Meetings.
- 9.11. The PM, or a nominated representative of the PM (as agreed with the BD CEO and the PD), will attend all selection meetings to provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of anticipated performance, assessment of risk factors.
- 9.12. The following individuals may also attend Selection Meetings (in person or remotely) in a non-voting capacity as experts for the purpose of assisting the Selectors to select the combinations and shall play such part in any Selection Meeting as the Selectors consider appropriate. The purpose of the expert is to assist the Selectors to select the **“Team”** by providing information, insight and expert opinion including but not limited to, the process of **“Team”** selection, assessment of past and anticipated performance and assessment of risk factors:
- WCP Team Veterinary Surgeon (**“Team Vet”**) and/or a nominated representative of the Team Vet may, if required, provide expert opinion and insight including, but not limited to, horse soundness, anticipated ability to compete in and complete the Championship and assessment of known risk factors. No confidential veterinary information will be provided to the Selectors in the absence of consent from the athlete. Such information, opinion and insight as is provided will be provided and received in the strictest confidence.
 - WCP Lead of Athlete Health (**“LAH”**) or a nominated representative of the LAH may (if required) provide expert opinion and insight as to an athlete’s capacity to optimally compete, although no medically confidential information will be provided to the Selectors in the absence of consent from the athlete. Such information, opinion and insight as is provided will be provided and received in the strictest confidence.
 - A WCP Performance Support Services Representative and/or nominated representative.
 - A British Athletes’ Commission Representative.
 - An appointed officer shall attend all Selection Meetings to keep a written record of the reasons given for selection decisions.
 - The following individuals (**“Observers”**) may also attend Selection Meetings and shall play such part in any Selection Meeting as the Selectors consider appropriate:
 - The CEO of BEF
 - The CEO of BD
 - A representative of UK Sport

10. Voting

- 10.1. All Selectors, except for the Independent Chair, will have equal voting rights. Selection decisions must be reached by a majority of the voting Selectors and with no abstentions, unless a voting Selector is required to abstain or recuse themselves from a vote due to a declared conflict of interest.
- 10.2. In the event of a conflict of interest arising, if the remaining voting Selectors reach an equality of votes, the ID will have the casting vote.
- 10.3. In the event of the ID being required to abstain due to a conflict of interest, the PD, or appointed representative, will have the casting vote.
- 10.4. Should a Selector be unable to attend a Selection Meeting for any reason, the PD, or a nominated representative of the PD (as agreed with the CEOs of BD and the BEF), will assume the role of that Selector and vote in their absence, providing they are free of any conflict of interest.
- 10.5. Throughout the selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this Selection Policy, having regard to the criteria set out in this Policy, to use their discretion to select athlete/horse combinations. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with integrity having regard to, and acting in compliance, with such applicable code of conduct or code of ethics as might be in force from time to time.

11. Substitution

- 11.1. At any time between the announcement of the Team and the departure of the Team to the Championship, the Selectors (in consultation with the PD, the PM, the Team Vet, and the LAH) may, in the circumstances set out below:
 - a. Substitute an athlete/horse combination from the Team, and
 - b. Select a Reserve Combination onto the Team to replace a removed athlete/horse combination.
- 11.2. In the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete (defined 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 medical reasons:
 - a. The athlete will be examined by a WCP approved Human SSM Practitioner.
 - b. Such examination may, at the discretion of the PD and ID, involve the athlete being required to ride certain dressage movements relevant to the athlete’s condition, as identified by the LAH.
 - c. The decision as to whether to substitute that athlete/horse combination will be made by the Selectors after completion of the examination in consultation with the PD, PM, and LAH.
- 11.3. In the case of a horse being considered to be unfit to compete due to veterinary reasons or, unable for veterinary reasons, to compete to the performance standard anticipated at the time of selection to the Team:
 - a. The horse will be examined by the Team Vet or WCP approved veterinary surgeon.
 - b. The decision as to whether to substitute that athlete/horse combination will be made by the Selectors after completion of that examination, in consultation with the PD, PM and the Team Vet.
- 11.4. It is a condition of selection to the Team that following selection athletes and horses make all reasonable efforts to maintain fitness, form, and performance, in a suitable training and competition programme to be agreed with the PD/PM. If an athlete or horse:
 - a. Fails to follow such programme, and/or
 - b. Fails to reach agreement with the PD/PM as to an alternative programme.

The Selectors shall be entitled to reconsider (in consultation with the PD, the PM, the Team Vet and/or LAH) the selection of the athlete/horse combination to the Team and to substitute the athlete/horse combination from the Team.

12. Post Selection, Team and Running Order

- 12.1. The PD, in consultation with the BEF and British Dressage will announce the Team and Reserve combinations.
- 12.2. The Team will be announced in accordance with the 2023 FEI Dressage Regulations.
- 12.3. The PM, in consultation with the ID, will decide the proposed running order at the Championships for the athlete/horse combinations selected to the Team.
- 12.4. The PM will inform/confirm with athletes after assessment of the condition of the horse/s and health of the rider to compete to their maximum potential post travel and after assessment of the conditions.
- 12.5. The Team and Team running order will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity. This decision will not be contestable, it will be final.
- 12.6. The PM, in consultation with the PD, may also subsequently make amendments to the Team and the order at any time up to two hours before the start of the first competition (or as allowed for in the FEI rules), if deemed necessary to do so. Again this decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity and it will not be contestable, it will be final.

13. Appeals process and procedures

- 13.1. Athletes have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors, but only on the grounds:
 - a. That the Selectors did not comply with this Selection Policy when making the decision appealed against, and/or
 - b. That in making the decision appealed against the Selectors made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably have made.
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing ("**the Notice of Appeal**") to the CEO of the BEF, in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules, within 48 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision against which the athlete wishes to appeal.
- 13.4. A copy of the Notice of Appeal must also be submitted to the CEO of British Dressage. The BD CEO shall, on receipt of the Notice of Appeal, seek to bring together all parties affected by the appeal for a without prejudice discussion that may, if all are agreed, take the form of a facilitated mediation.
- 13.5. For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeal process shall continue to run during such discussion. However, in the event that all affected parties notify the BEF (within 24 hours of receipt of the Appeal Notice) that such discussion/mediation has resolved the appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed.
- 13.6. The full details of the BEF Rules are set out on the BEF website: [Here](#) and copies of the BEF Selection Appeal Rules can be obtained from the BEF office.

14. Policy Creation & Amendment

- 14.1. This Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with BD Board of Directors, the BEF Board of Directors, the PD, PM, BD Selectors, and athletes.
- 14.2. The Selectors are entitled in exceptional circumstances to amend or revise this Selection Policy, where they reasonably consider it necessary to do so, to best achieve the Objectives of the Selection Policy set out in Section 2 above.
- 14.3. Any amendments of or revisions to this Selection Policy must be approved by the BD and BEF CEOs, PD and the PM.
- 14.4. The amended or revised Policy and/or relevant sections will be communicated to all senior international athletes in a manner directed by the PD, PM, and Selectors, and all amended or revised clauses will be published on the British Dressage and BEF websites.

15. General

- 15.1. **Discretion** – the Selectors are entitled, within the scope of this Selection Policy, to exercise their discretion to achieve the Objectives where it is reasonable to do so.
- 15.2. **Cancellation/postponement** – in the event of cancellation of the Championship, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement of the Championship, a situation might arise where a new and/or different Team or nominated list needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and (subject to any amendments or revisions made to the Selection Policy in accordance with Section 1 above) the procedures for selection set out in the Selection Policy will be followed.
- 15.3. **Force majeure** – in the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or BD's control, such as disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, withdrawal of WCP funding, the British Dressage Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the CEOs of BD/BEF and PD, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure for selection, which might include withdrawing the British Team from competition.
- 15.4. **Communication (Publication)** – the Selection Policy will be published on the British Dressage and BEF websites and copies will be available on request from the BD/BEF office.
- 15.5. **Enquiries** – enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BEF office or the PM.
- 15.6. **Point of contact** – the PM is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.