

FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships Ermelo, Netherlands, 3 – 6 August 2023 Selection Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships (the “**Championships**”). The British Dressage squad for the Championships will be selected by the British Dressage (“BD”) Selectors (the “**Selectors**”), in accordance with this Policy and the WBFSH Guidelines. Once selected, the athlete/horse combinations will be entered by British Dressage.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. In accordance with this Selection Policy, the Selectors shall select the athlete/horse combinations that in their view will most likely achieve the objectives set out in this section of the Selection Policy (“**the Objectives**”) at the Championships:
- a) **Primary objective:** 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 2023.

3. Outcome of Selection Process

- 3.1. The Selectors shall select a squad of up to a maximum of six athlete/horse combinations, comprised of two per age group: five, six, and seven-year-old horses.
- 3.2. The Selectors may also select up to a maximum of six reserve athlete/horse combinations (“**Reserve Combinations**”) in rank order, comprised of two per age group: five, six, and seven-year-old horses.

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. They must, at all times, use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.
- 4.1.1 To be considered for the Championship athlete/horse combinations must, at the final selection trial, achieve the minimum performance scores (“**MPS**”) outlined below. MPS achieved at any other time will not count towards final selection.
- Five and six-year-old horses: a minimum total score of 75%
 - Seven-year-old horses: a minimum total score of 70%
- 4.1.2 The anticipated overall performance/development of the athlete/horse combination.
- 4.1.3 The fitness and health of the horse and ability to compete to full potential.

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

- 5.1. All athlete/horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete with BD to be considered for selection at the Championships within the timeframes set out in 7.1.
- 5.2. To register your interest please email lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk
- 5.3. The BD International Officer (“**IO**”) will ensure that each athlete and horse put forward to the Selectors as being available for selection 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.
 - 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) member of BD and not serving any suspensions under either BD, BEF or FEI rules.
 - f) The owner is a minimum of a Full (Non-Competing) member of BD and not serving any suspension under BD, BEF or FEI rules.
 - g) The athlete is fully registered with the FEI for 2023.
 - h) The horse is fully registered with British Dressage and the FEI for 2023.
 - i) The athlete and horse each satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI Regulations and WBFSH Guidelines and are not, for any reason, ineligible to take part in the Championships under BD, BEF or FEI rules.
 - j) Any combination selected by the Selectors to compete at the Championships will have to be approved by the studbook of the selected horse. The IO will process this application on behalf of the athlete.
 - k) Participation in the final selection trial, provision of video evidence, results and/or the achievement of FEI MER or NF Minimum performance standards (MPS) Section 7 does not guarantee a place at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Championships.
 - l) **Home Bred Horse:** A home bred horse is defined as a horse that has been registered SINCE/AT BIRTH with a stud book originating in GBR NF and has a UELN that corresponds to the studbook origin.
 - m) **Foreign Bred Horse:** A foreign bred horse is defined as a horse that has been registered SINCE/AT BIRTH with a stud book of any NF other than GBR and has a UELN that corresponds to the studbook origin.
 - n) NFs with no eligible home bred horses may nominate a foreign bred horse(s) providing that no home bred horses have achieved the scores outlined in Section 7 at the final selection trial. This is as per the WBFSH Guidelines.

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 and submit this form to the BD International Officer.
- b) The Register of Interest to Compete at the **Championships** will close 1 May 2023 before the Final Selection Trial and selection meeting date on or around 11 June 2023. Only athletes on this list will be considered for selection.
- c) There are three routes available to combinations, all of which involve a two-stage process.

- 7.2. **ROUTE 1:** For athlete/horse combinations based and competing in the United Kingdom.

7.2.1. STAGE 1

Enter and compete in the appropriate age group at one or more of the FEI Preliminary or Final tests held at the competitions below:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • Myerscough College | Lancashire | 7 – 12 March |
| • Addington | Buckinghamshire | 28 – 30 April |
| • Hickstead | West Sussex | 12 – 14 May |
| • Somerford Park | Cheshire | 26 – 28 May |
| • Wellington Riding | Hampshire | 6 – 11 June |

To qualify for the final selection trial combinations must, at the competitions listed above achieve the MPS outlined below on at least one occasion:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Five- and six-year-old horses | a minimum total score of 75% |
| • Seven-year-old horses | a minimum total score of 70% |

7.2.2. STAGE 2

If qualified from Stage 1, athletes will be notified to enter and compete in the FEI Final test at the final selection trial in the appropriate age group at:

- Wellington Riding Premier league, Hampshire 6 – 11 June

7.3. **ROUTE 2:** For athlete /horse combinations based in the UK and competing in a FEI CDIYH abroad.

7.3.1. **STAGE 1**

Provide video evidence of competing in at least one FEI CDIYH. This must be sent, together with details of the competition and a signed test sheet, to the IO by 1 May 2023.

To qualify for the final selection trial combinations must, at the FEI CDIYH in a FEI Prelim/ Final test, achieve the MPS outlined below on at least one occasion:

- Five- and six-year-old horses a minimum total score of 75%
- Seven-year-old horses a minimum total score of 70%

7.3.2. **STAGE 2**

If qualified from Stage 1, athletes will be notified to enter and compete in the FEI Final test at the final selection trial in the appropriate age group at:

- Wellington Riding Premier league, Hampshire 6 – 11 June

7.4. **ROUTE 3:** For athlete /horse combinations based abroad.

7.4.1. **STAGE 1**

Provide video evidence of the combination demonstrating a FEI Prelim / Final test at the appropriate level for the age group. This does not need to be in competition; however, the presentation should reflect FEI rules. This must be submitted to the IO by 1 May 2023. The video will be reviewed by the Selection Panel, who will make final decision as to whether the combination should be invited forward for Stage 2 of the process.

7.4.2. **STAGE 2**

If qualified from Stage 1, athletes will be notified to enter and compete in the FEI Final test at the final selection trial in the appropriate age group at:

- Wellington Riding Premier league, Hampshire 6 – 11 June

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 will be appointed by the BD Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”). Two voting Selectors will be appointed by the BD Board of Directors, with a third voting Selector automatically appointed from their position on the BD Board as International Director (“ID”).
- 9.2. Throughout this Selection Policy the term “**Selectors**” refers to the three voting Selectors.
- 9.3. The 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.
- 9.4. 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 BD IO will be responsible for keeping the Independent Chair of Selectors informed.
- 9.5. The Independent Chair of Selectors will ensure that:
 - a) The 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 Championships is followed correctly at Selection Meetings.
- 9.6. Conflicts of interest will be confirmed and declared at the start of Selection Meetings to allow the Chair to check and manage any issues.
- 9.7. 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.
- 9.8. The Selection Panel, so appointed, comprise of the following individuals:
 - Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting) – David Trott
 - Selector (voting) – Judy Harvey (International Director (ID))
 - Selector (voting) – Jenny Ward
 - Selector (voting) – Anne Keen

- 9.9. 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 in selecting the “**Athlete/horse combinations**” by providing, as appropriate, relevant information and evidence, insight and expert opinion – including, but not limited to, the process of selection, assessment of past and anticipated performance and assessment of risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation / training for each combination.

- a) World Class Performance Manager (“**PM**”).
- b) A Veterinary Surgeon and / or Medical Health Practitioner as nominated by BD.
- c) A WCP Performance Support Services Representative and/or nominated representative.
- d) The BD International Officer (“**IO**”) shall attend all Selection Meetings and keep a written record of the reasons for selection decisions.
- e) The CEO of BD may also attend Selection Meetings in an observational capacity and shall play such part as the Selectors consider appropriate.

10. Voting

- 10.1. All Selectors will have equal voting rights. Selection decisions must be reached by a majority of the voting Selectors and with no abstentions, unless a 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 BD CEO, or appointed representative, will have the casting vote.
- 10.4. Should a Selector be unable to attend a Selection Meeting for any reason, the BD CEO, or a nominated representative of the BD CEO, will assume the role of that Selector and vote in their absence.
- 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.

11. Substitution

- 11.1. At any time between the announcement of the selected athlete/horse combinations and the departure to the Championship, the ID, in consultation with the Selectors and, as appropriate, BD appointed Veterinary Surgeon/Medical Health Practitioner), may in the circumstances set out below:

- a) Substitute an athlete/horse combination, and
 - b) Select the next placed athlete/horse combination from the ranked order for the age group to replace any removed athlete/horse combination.
- 11.2. If the ID considers that an athlete might be 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 BD appointed Athlete Medical Health Practitioner.
 - b) Such examination may, at the discretion of the ID involve the athlete being required to ride certain dressage movements relevant to the athlete’s condition.
 - 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 Athlete Medical Health Practitioner.
- 11.3. If the ID or BD appointed Veterinary Surgeon considers that a horse might be unfit to compete due to veterinary reasons, or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated at the time of selection to the Team due to veterinary reasons:
- a) The horse will be examined by the BD appointed 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 BD approved Veterinary Surgeon.
- 11.4. It is a condition of selection that all reasonable efforts will be made to maintain fitness, form and performance in a suitable training and competition programme to be agreed with the ID. Failure to follow such a programme, or agreeing an alternative programme with the ID, could lead to the athlete/horse combination being de-selected, substituted or withdrawn.

12. Appeals Process and Procedures

- 12.1. Athletes have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors, but only on the grounds that:
- a) The Selectors did not comply with this Selection Policy when making the decision appealed against, and/or
 - b) In making the decision appealed against the Selectors came to a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably have made.
- 12.2. 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.

- 12.3. 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.
- 12.4. A copy of the Notice of 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 affected by the appeal for a without prejudice discussion that may, if all are agreed, take the form of a facilitated mediation.
- 12.5. 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.
- 12.6. 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.

13. Policy Creation & Amendment

- 13.1. This Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with BD Board of Directors, CEO, ID and BD Selectors.
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. Any amendments of or revisions to this Selection Policy must be approved by the BD CEO and the ID.
- 13.4. The amended or revised Policy and/or relevant sections will be communicated to all senior international athletes in a manner directed by the ID and Selectors, and all amended or revised clauses will be published on the BD website.

14. General

- 14.1. **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.
- 14.2. **Cancellation/postponement** – in the event of cancellation of the Championship, the relevant parties will be notified immediately. 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 13 above) the procedures for selection set out in the Selection Policy will be followed.
- 14.3. **Force majeure** – in the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BD’s control, such as disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the British Dressage Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the BD CEO and ID, to either change the Selection Policy or the procedure for selection, which may include withdrawing the British Team from competition.

- 14.4. **Communication (Publication)** – the Selection Policy will be published on the BD website and copies will be available on request from the BD office.
- 14.5. **Enquiries** – enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BD International Officer: lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk.
- 14.6. **Point of contact** – the BD IO is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive
February 2023