

British Equestrian Para Dressage Selection Policy

Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Equestrian Para Dressage squad (the "Squad") for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (the "Games") will be selected by the voting selectors of British Dressage (BD) (the "Selectors"), endorsed by British Equestrian (BEF), and nominated to the British Paralympic Association (BPA) by the BEF for selection to ParalympicsGB.
- 1.2. References to selection for the 2024 Paralympic 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 will also be referred to.
- 1.3. Of the "Squad" of four (4) athlete/horse combinations who travel to the Games, three (3) athlete/horse combinations will compete in the Team Competition as well as the Individual Competitions and will be known as the "Team". The fourth (4th) athlete/horse combination will compete only in the Individual Competitions and will be known as the "Individual".

2. Objectives

The objectives of this Selection Policy are to select athlete/horse combinations that will optimise the potential to:

- 2.1. Primary objective: win the maximum number of medals achievable in the Individual and Freestyle competitions at the Games.
- 2.2. Secondary objective: win a Team medal at the Games.

3. Confidentiality

- 3.1. It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the athletes, owners, Selectors, staff and other parties that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.
- 3.2. Any member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection Panel. All information, conversations and discussions will be identified as confidential.

4. Selection Panel and attendees

4.1. The Paralympic Games Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting)	Sarah Rowell
Chief Selector (voting)	Joyce Head
Selector (voting)	Islay Auty
Selector (voting)	Pamela Bushell

Non-Voting Experts present at the Paralympic Selection Meeting:

The individual experts' opinion may be sought by the Selectors, but they will not have a vote at the point of selection. They may contribute to selection discussions when invited to do so.

Performance Director (PD) or their chosen representative, as approved by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BEF

Para Dressage Performance Manager (PM)

Para Dressage Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet) (if required by the selectors)

Second Opinion Veterinary Surgeon (if required by the selectors)

Para Dressage WCP Coaches

WCP Chief Medical Officer (CMO) (if required by the selectors)

Data Analysis Expert

Also present:

BEF appointed minute taker

4.2. Observers who may attend the Selection Meeting, as approved by the WCP PD.

CEO of BEF

CEO of British Dressage

UK Sport Representative

British Paralympic Association (BPA) Representative

British Elite Athletes' Association (BEAA) Representative

4.3. The Independent Chair of Selectors will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The Independent Chair will maintain a register of conflicts of interests and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise using the conflicts of interest form issued ahead of the Selection meeting. If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest during selection, then the Selector must step down from the discussion involving the conflict.

4.4. 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 an abstention by one of the selectors and the remaining selectors reaching an equality of votes, the PD or their chosen representative will have the casting vote.

4.5. The Para Dressage WCP Coaches will be non-voting members of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of providing relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of anticipated performance, assessment of risk factors, recommendations regarding final preparation/training for each combination.

4.6. The Para Dressage Team Veterinary Surgeon and Second Opinion Veterinary Surgeon will be a non-voting member of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.

- 4.7. The WCP CMO will be a non-voting expert and 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 fitness and/or anticipated ability to complete the competition and manage the environment.
- 4.8. The PM will attend all selection meetings as a non-voting expert. They will, in coordination with the WCP Coaches, provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of past and future anticipated performance, and risk factors.
- 4.9. The PD, or their chosen representative, will attend all selection meetings and will be responsible for the final nominations by the BEF to the BPA.
- 4.10. Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this Selection Policy, having regard to the criteria set out below, to use their absolute discretion to select athlete and horse combinations onto the Squad. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with integrity having regard to, and acting in compliance with, any applicable code of conduct or code of ethics in force from time to time.

5. Policy formation

- 5.1. The British Equestrian Para Dressage Selection Policy for the Games is compiled in consultation with the BPA, BD Board Directors, BEF Board Directors, Selectors, BEF and BD CEOs, athletes, PD, PM and WCP Coaches.

6. Changes in Policy

- 6.1. The Selectors will have the right in exceptional circumstances, to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the Objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the Independent Chair of Selectors, PD (or their chosen representative), PM and CEOs of BEF and BD. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors) and the section revised will be published on the BD and BEF websites.

7. Minimum eligibility requirements and availability for consideration for selection

- 7.1. The BD Para Dressage International Officer will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including:
 - a. The athlete must be 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 application, selection and until the conclusion of the Games. Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Games.
 - b. The athlete has been granted a licence by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
 - c. All athletes will be expected to comply with FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on human anti-doping, and all athletes must be eligible to compete under any anti-doping code; i.e., not serving a competition ban as a result of a proven human or equine doping or controlled medication violation, or other breach of ethical conduct and is not in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport.

- d. The athlete is a full and active member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD, BEF or FEI rules.
- e. The horse is fully registered with BD for 2024.
- f. Neither athlete or horse may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Games under BEF, BD, BPA, FEI, a Member Body or International Paralympic Committee (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 (where required).
- 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 and arrival times and dates.

7.2. In addition, as a condition of selection for the Games, an athlete/horse combination must meet the following criteria:

- a. All athlete/horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete at the Games before 23:59 hours on 1 March 2024 in order to be eligible to be considered for selection. The Register of Intent (ROI) form can be found [here](#). By signing the ROI form the athlete confirms that they have read and agree to abide by the terms set out in this Policy.
- b. The PD reserves the right to add any athlete/horse combination to the Register of Intent list at any time prior to the submission of nominated entries to the FEI.
- c. All athletes must be internationally classified with a 'confirmed' sport class status, or a 'review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2024.
- d. All athlete/horse combinations must have achieved, as a combination, the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) (as outlined in FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Article 622):
<https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/paralympic/paris-2024>
- e. All athletes must reach a minimum of 14 years of age during 2024.
- f. Horses must have been born on or before 31 December 2018 (6 years of age - the age being counted from 1 January of the year of birth).
- g. All horses entered for the Equestrian Competitions at the Games must have been registered with the FEI by the date of Final Entries (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Article 606.2.2).
- h. All horses entered for the Equestrian Competitions 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 (as outlined in FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Article 606.2.3).
- i. No commercial prefix or suffix will be included with the name of the horse on any Paralympic participation/entry list, start list or results. The FEI reserves the right to amend any horse's name accordingly (in accordance with FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, Article 606.2.4).

- j. Athletes will be obliged to sign up to and adhere to the ParalympicsGB Team Member Agreement (TMA) and to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#) and [BD Code of Conduct](#).

8. Qualification period

- 8.1. The qualification period for Teams and Individuals will be in accordance with the FEI qualification guidelines as outlined in FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Article 607, effective for the Paralympic Games Paris 2024, which are available at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/paralympic/paris-2024>.

9. Squad size

- 9.1. A Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which three (3) will make up the Team and will compete in the Team Competition and Individual Competition. The fourth (4th) Squad member will compete in the Individual Competition. All Squad riders will be expected to comply with quarantine (if required) and preparation requirements. Failure to do so could result in the athlete/horse combination being removed from the Squad.
- 9.2. The Selectors will also select a number of reserve combinations (the exact number will be decided in consultation with the PM/PD/WCP Coaches/Team Vet) from the nominated entry list. The Selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order. Reserves will be expected to comply with all quarantine (if required) and preparation requirements. Failure to do so could result in the athlete/horse combination being removed from the reserve list. Reserve horse(s) may be required to travel to the Paris region with the Squad horses in case there is requirement for a substitution.

10. Selection Criteria

- 10.1. The Selectors will consider the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion to select combinations onto the Squad in alignment with the Objectives of the Policy in clause 2. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.
- a. The athlete/horse combination's results during the qualification period. When considering results, due regard will be given to:
- Results obtained at CPEDI3* competitions during the period 1 January 2023 until the end of the Paralympic Qualifying Period.
 - The current scores and medal trend in scores internationally within each grade (including but not limited to the 2022 World Championships, 2023 European Championships, Paris 2024 predicted medal winning scores).
 - Athlete/horse combinations whose results, profiles and performance preparation most closely demonstrate their ability to contribute to achieving the Objectives in clause 2.
 - The quality of competition, competitiveness of starters and the standing of the judges.
 - Demonstrable ability of the athlete/horse combination to produce peak performances in competitions most closely resembling the Games. For clarity, this will normally involve the athlete/horse combination being able to demonstrate an ability to travel, compete and deliver results at overseas competitions.
 - Demonstrable commitment of the athlete to prepare themselves and their horse(s) optimally for travelling to and producing optimal results in the Paris 2024 Games environment and buy in to performance preparation agreed by the PM alongside the PD, Team Vet, WCP CMO or WCP Para Dressage Physiotherapist.

- b. Fitness and soundness of the horse. All horses under consideration will be required to be examined by the Team Vet (or another appointed veterinary surgeon). Athletes are obliged to notify the Team Vet of any change in their horses' health status or veterinary management without delay. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the Team Vet to ensure that the selectors can make rational decisions and so that specific support can be instigated where required.
- c. Fitness of the human athlete to compete to their full potential.
 - An athlete must declare any current or ongoing physical or mental reason that may impair their ability to perform at their peak on any given day in Paris. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
 - The WCP CMO/WCP Para Dressage Physiotherapist may also pass judgement on an athlete's capacity to compete optimally from a medical perspective. However, it is noted that this is done confidentially and without any detail of the issue shared unless the athlete has given explicit consent.
- d. Behaviour of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, partners, home coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
- e. Willingness of the athlete and people associated with the athlete, that may be in the Games environment, to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#), the [BD Code of Conduct](#) and the ParalympicsGB TMA (where applicable).

10.2. The Selectors, in collaboration with the PM and WCP Coaches, may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, tests or competitions where they deem this appropriate and necessary prior to selection. The PM will inform the athletes concerned of the details regarding these requirements.

10.3. Subject to full consideration of the Primary and Secondary Objectives set out in 2.1 and 2.2, and the fulfilment of the Selection Criteria in 10.1 above, the Selectors may at their absolute discretion choose to nominate eligible athletes for the further development and progression of British Para Dressage and to optimise the chances of winning a medal at future Paralympic Games.

11. Selection process

11.1. The Selectors will hold the Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around 10 June 2024. The nominated entry list will comprise of up to twelve (12) athlete/horse combinations. The nominated entry list and Certificates of Capability will be submitted to the FEI by 19 June 2024.

11.2. The Selectors will select the Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Games (three (3) Team riders and one (1) Individual competitor), plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or around 9 July 2024. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selectors reserve the right to nominate the four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Games on a "no order" basis, which shall mean that the decision as to which three (3) athlete/horse combinations will be selected to compete in the Team competition may be deferred until arrival at the Paralympic Games and/or the conclusion of the Individual competition. This decision is not contestable.

11.3. The PM will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until they are formally notified of the BPA's ratification of their selection by the PD or PM and are subject to the requirements of a BPA Team Announcement.

11.4. The BPA in consultation with the PD will announce the Squad for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games in July 2024, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Key Dates:

- Nominated entries selection meeting (on or around): 10 June 2024
- MER deadline: 18 June 2024
- Nominated entry deadline: 19 June 2024
- Definite Entries selection meeting on or around: 9 July 2024
- Final Sport Entries: 5 August 2024

12. Post Selection

12.1 Team/running order: The PM, in consultation with the PD, Chief Selector and Team Vet, will decide the three (3) Team members. If not announced before departure, the PM will inform the Squad accordingly after assessment of the condition of the horses post travel and the health of the athletes to compete to their maximum potential and/or completion of the Individual competition. The decision regarding the Team and Team running order will be made with absolute discretion, honesty, and integrity to the Objectives of this Selection Policy. The decision will not be contestable, it will be final.

13. Substitution

13.1 In line with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Article 609: Teams needing to substitute a Team athlete or a Team horse with an Individual athlete or Individual horse are permitted to do so in the period between the declaration of starters and up to two hours before the scheduled starting time of the Team Test Competition (first grade to go in the Team test). This decision will be made by the PM, in consultation with the Team Vet, Para Dressage Physiotherapist, PD (or appointed representative), Chief Selector, ParalympicsGB Chef de Mission (CdM) (or appointed representative).

14. De-selection

14.1 Between the announcement of the Squad and the BPA's Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) on or around 15 August 2024, the final decision as to whether to de-select/substitute, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, WCP Coaches, PD, Team Vet or CMO and ParalympicsGB CdM (or appointed representative).

14.2 After the BPA's DRM on or around 15 August 2024, any de-selection decisions will be made in consultation with the BPA and, in accordance with FEI, the Organising Committee of the Paralympic Games and IPC policies.

14.3 De-selection will normally only occur in exceptional circumstances (such as injury or illness to athlete or horse, or a performance issue that indicates that a combination is unlikely to contribute to the Objectives of the Policy, or as detailed in 14.4. below). At all times such decisions will be in accordance with the IPC Late Athlete Replacement Policy (when published).

14.4 Selected and Reserve athletes must continue to meet the eligibility requirements and adhere to all reasonable training, preparation, quarantine, media, and team meeting requirements, as well as the requirements outlined in the British Equestrian Team Charter, WCP Athlete Agreement, BEF Rules, BD Code of Conduct and the ParalympicsGB TMA. Failure to do so may result in the athlete and horse combination being de-selected.

14.4.1 In the event that an athlete ceases to meet the eligibility requirements, or any breaches or alleged breaches of these agreements, rules and policies are under investigation by BD, BEF or

any other statutory authority, the CEOs of BD and BEF, along with the PD, will consult with the BPA to collectively determine and agree whether de-selection is the appropriate course of action, regardless of whether the relevant process has been concluded or any other risk management or disciplinary sanctions have been imposed at that point.

14.4.2 The Athlete will be notified of any review of their selection under clause 14.4.1 and will be given the opportunity to make written representations within 72 hours of notification. The de-selection decision, together with any athlete submission, will be subject to final review by the Independent Chair. The outcome of this process shall be final and not open to appeal.

14.4.3 Any de-selection decision made within 72 hours in advance of the team travelling from the UK to the point of competition will be deemed final and not subject to further review.

14.5 Athletes and horses are expected to maintain fitness and performance. Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected, they must maintain their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the PM and/or WCP Coaches. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM and/or WCP Coaches, could lead to the athlete/horse combination being de-selected.

14.6 At any time after announcement of the Squad, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, following an examination by a World Class Programme-approved Human Sport Science or Medical Practitioner and in consultation with the PD, a recommendation will be made by the PM to the relevant decision-making body (Selectors and/or BPA). This may involve the athlete being asked to ride certain dressage movements on their selected horse. 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”.

14.7 At any time after the announcement of the Squad, in the case of a horse being considered unfit to compete due to veterinary reasons, or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, following an examination by a World Class Programme approved veterinary surgeon and in consultation with the PD, a recommendation will be made by the PM to the relevant decision-making body (Selectors and/or BPA).

14.8 De-selection of a Squad member may occur at any time in line with the terms set out in this Policy. The decision to deselect an athlete is not open to appeal; however, a written representation is permissible up until 72 hours prior to team travel, in accordance with clauses 14.4.2 and 14.4.3.

15. General

15.1 Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation of the Games, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation might arise where a new and/or different Squad needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

15.2 Force majeure: In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF, BD or BPA’s control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or the withdrawal of World Class Programme funding, the BEF and BD Boards reserve the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD, BPA and Chief Executive Officers of the BEF and BD, either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which may include withdrawing the British Team from competition.

- 15.3 Communication (publication): The Selection Policy will be published on the BEF and BD websites and copies will be available on request from the BD or BEF offices.
- 15.4 Enquiries: Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BD or BEF offices or the PM.
- 15.5 Point of contact: The PM is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

16. 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. For the avoidance of doubt there is no right of appeal where the terms of this Policy state that the decision is not contestable and/or there is no right of appeal.
- 16.2. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the CEO of the BEF in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the “Appeal Process”), within two (2) working days of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors’ decision.
- 16.3. 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 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 the BEF (within one (1) working day of receipt of the notice of appeal) that such discussion/mediation has resolved the Appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed. The Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website: [Annex H - 2 - BEF Olympic and Paralympic Games Selection Appeal Rules.pdf \(britishequestrian.org.uk\)](#).