

FEI U25 Dressage European Championships St. Margarethen, Austria, 16 – 21 July 2024 Selection Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for the FEI Under 25 Dressage European Championships (the “**Championships**”). The British Dressage team for the Championships will be selected by the British Dressage (“**BD**”) Selectors (the “**Selectors**”) in accordance with this Policy. Once selected, the team will be entered by British Equestrian (“**BEF**”) to represent the Federation at the Championships.

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 a team medal at the FEI Under 25 Dressage European Championships in 2024.
 - b) **Secondary objective:** To win individual medals at the FEI Under 25 Dressage European Championships in 2024.

3. Selection Process

- 3.1. The Selectors shall select a squad of up to a maximum of eight athlete / horse combinations, of which three or four will make up the team and compete in the team competition.
- 3.2. The Selectors may also select reserve athlete / horse combinations (“**Reserve Combinations**”). The selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order.
- 3.3. All selection decisions will be aligned to achieve the Primary Objective (Section 2.1.a.). Should the Selection Panel consider, in their expert opinion, that the Primary Objective of this Policy is unlikely to be achieved, they may deem it appropriate, in line with the Secondary Objective (Section 2.1.b.), to select individual(s), rather than the required number of athlete / horse combinations to form a Team, notwithstanding compliance with the FEI rules for the Championship.

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. They must, at all times, use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.

4.2 Selection will be based on the athlete / horse combination's results according to the following order of priority:

- a) Primary consideration will be given to scores from all CDI/CDIO U25 competitions and CDI Big Tour competitions held from 1 January 2024 (obtained via the FEI website), up to and including the Nominated and Definite Entries dates, with the emphasis on Intermediate II, followed by U25 Grand Prix (16-25), and / or the Grand Prix and finally the U25 Grand Prix Freestyle.
- b) Secondary consideration will be given to scores achieved in CDI competitions held from 1 January 2023 up to and including 31 December 2023 (following the same priorities outlined in Section 4.2.a.).
- c) Tertiary consideration will be given to scores achieved in Premier Leagues, following the same priorities and timeframes outlined in Section 4.2.a.

Due regard will also be given to:

- d) The overall trend in scores.
 - e) The consistency of scores achieved in 2024 above 68% in Intermediate II, with additional consideration given to U25 Grand Prix / Grand Prix in CDI competitions.
 - f) The status of the judges and the competition.
 - g) The quality and competitiveness of the starters.
 - h) Consideration of the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and / or retirement from 1 January 2024, up to and including the Championship entries date (Nominated Entries on or around **XX June 2024**, Definite Entries on or around **XX June 2024**).
- 4.3 Proven ability to produce peak performance in conditions similar to the Under 25 European Championships.
- 4.4 The commitment of the athlete to prepare optimally for the Championships.
- 4.5 The fitness and health of both the horse and athlete, and their ability to compete to their full potential.
- 4.6 The willingness of the athlete, owners, trainers, grooms, support team and others that may be assisting the athlete during the Championship, to contribute to the Objectives of this Selection Policy.
- 4.7 The conduct of the athlete and their support team, and their commitment towards generating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- 4.8 The Selectors may, at their absolute discretion, ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, tests, or competitions, where they deem this appropriate to support the selection process.

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

- 5.1. 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 Championships.
 - b) The athlete is a British Citizen with a current British passport valid for a minimum of six months after the date of the competition.
 - c) The athlete has been granted a license by the British Equestrian Federation (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., they are not serving a competition ban resulting from a proven doping or controlled medication violation), not serving a competition ban as a result of any breach of any ethical code or misconduct and not in receipt of a funding ban from UK Sport.
 - e) The athlete is a Full (competing) member of British Dressage and not serving any suspensions under BD, BEF or FEI rules.
 - f) The legal owner of the horse is a full (competing or 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 2024.
 - h) The horse is fully registered with British Dressage and the FEI for 2024.
 - i) Athlete / horse combinations must have competed in an Intermediate II (U25) or U25 Grand Prix to be considered for selection.
 - j) 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 BD, BEF or FEI rules.
- 5.2. Athletes should inform the British Dressage IO that they wish to be considered for selection **no later than 1 May 2024** lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk.
- 5.3. Athletes will be expected to comply with the following:
- a) Any request for their horse(s) to be examined for fitness/soundness at any time during the Selection Process by a BD appointed veterinary surgeon and to notify such vet of any current or existing physical reason that might reasonably be considered as a possible impairment of the horse’s ability to perform to full potential at any time.
 - b) Any request for examination by a BD appointed medical health practitioner and to notify such practitioner of any current or existing or mental reason that might reasonably be considered as a possible impairment of their ability to perform to full potential at any time.
 - c) Facilitate open communication between their own Sports Science and Medicine Team (“**SSM**”) Team and any BD appointed vet and / or athlete medical health practitioner.

- d) Abide by any BD Code of Conduct and BEF Team Charter which may be in force at any time during the selection process and throughout the Championships. The BD Code of Conduct and the British Equestrian Team Charter are available on the respective BD and BEF websites. This also applies to the athletes' support teams.
- e) Comply with FEI and BEFAR (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 resulting from a proven human or equine doping or controlled medication violation, or in breach of any ethical conduct, and is not in receipt of a lifetime ban from UK sport.

5.4 Should an athlete decide at any time and for whatever reason to withdraw from the selection process they are obliged to notify the ID and IO immediately.

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. Nominated Entries:

- a) On or around **XX June 2024**, subject to the FEI Nominated Entries date, the Selectors will select a list of nominated entries (the "**Nominated Entries**") from which the Team or Individuals will subsequently be selected.
- b) Athletes will subsequently be informed of the nomination meeting selection outcomes by the BD International Director ("**ID**") at the end of the Selection Meeting.
- c) Athletes will have the right to appeal any selection decision within 48 hours of being informed of the decision.
- d) 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. Definite Entries:

- a) On or around the **XX June 2024**, subject to the FEI Definite Entries date, the Selectors will select from the Nominated Entries list:
 - I. The "**Team**" of three or four athlete / horse combinations to compete at the Championships, or "**Individuals**".
 - II. "**Reserve Combinations**", as 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 Entries selection meeting outcomes by the ID.

- d) The 48-hour window for appeals starts at the time the athlete is informed of the selection decision.
- e) The Team or Individuals selected will be submitted at the Definite Entries date (subject to receiving the FEI official schedule with confirmation of the Definite Entries 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 Championships, that there is a high degree of confidentiality relating to information that 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 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.
- 9.4. 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 the BD CEO. 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 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).
- 9.6. Conflicts of interest will be confirmed and declared at the start of Selection Meetings to allow the Chair to manage any issues that may arise.
- 9.7. If any 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 Selectors so appointed comprise:

Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting) – Sarah Rowell
Selector (voting) – Judy Harvey (BD International Director)
Selector (voting) – Jenny Ward
Selector (voting) – Anne Keen

- 9.9. The following individuals may also be requested by the Selectors to 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:
- World Class Performance Manager (“**PM**”).
 - A veterinary surgeon and / or medical health practitioner, as nominated by BD.
 - WCP Performance Support Services Representative or nominated representative.
- 9.10. The purpose of the expert is to assist the Selectors to select the Team or Individuals 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, associated risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation / training for each combination.
- 9.11. The BD International Officer shall attend all Selection Meetings as secretariat and shall keep a written record of the reason for selection decisions.
- 9.12. Observers who may attend the Selection Meeting, as approved by the ID, include the BD CEO, BEF CEO, and the World Class Performance Director (“**PD**”), or their appointed representatives.

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 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 declared conflict of interest, one of the remaining selectors, as nominated the BD CEO, will have the casting vote.
- 10.4. Should a Selector be unable to attend a Selection Meeting for any reason, the PM, or a nominated representative of the PM, 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 always 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 Team or Individuals and the departure of the Team to the Championships, the ID, in consultation with the Selectors and Chef d’Equipe, 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. If the ID, in consultation with the Selectors, 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 an examination may, at the discretion of the ID, involve the athlete being required to ride certain dressage movements relevant to the athlete’s condition.
- 11.3. 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.
- 11.4. 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 a BD appointed veterinary surgeon, and
 - 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.
- 11.5. It is a condition of selection that all reasonable efforts be made to maintain fitness, form and performance in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the PM. If the athlete or horse fails to follow such a programme, or fails to reach agreement on an alternative programme, the Selectors shall be entitled to:
- a) Reconsider the selection of the athlete/horse combination, in consultation with the BD approved Veterinary Surgeon and/or Athlete Medical Health Practitioner), and / or
 - b) Substitute the athlete / horse combination from the Team and/or withdraw or de-select any Individuals.

12. Post Team Selection and Running Order

- 12.1. The Team will be announced in accordance with the 2024 FEI Dressage Regulations.
- 12.2. The ID and PM will decide the proposed running order for athlete / horse combinations at the Championships after assessment of the conditions of the horses post travel and after assessment of any other conditions at the Championships.
- 12.3. The PM, in consultation and with the agreement of the ID, may make alterations to the running order, up to the first horse inspection, if deemed appropriate or necessary to do so for any reason that may impact on the Objectives of this Policy. This is a condition of selection for athletes and owners: this decision will be final and non-contestable.

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 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.

- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing (“**the Notice of Appeal**”) to the BEF CEO, 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 BD CEO. 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 the BD Board of Directors, BD CEO, ID, PM, and the BD Selectors.
- 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.
- 14.3. Any amendments of or revisions to this Selection Policy must be approved in writing by the BD CEO and the BD Selectors.
- 14.4. The amended or revised clauses will be communicated to all U25 athletes in a manner directed by the BD Selectors, and the full version of the amended or revised Policy will be published on the BD 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 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 14 above) the normal procedures for selection set out this Policy will be followed.
- 15.3. **Force majeure** – in the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or British Dressage 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 ID and BD CEO, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure for selection, which might include withdrawing the Team or Individuals from competition.

- 15.4. **Communication (Publication)** – the Selection Policy will be published on the BD and BEF websites and copies will be available on request from the BD/BEF offices.
- 15.5. **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.
- 15.6. **Point of contact** – the BD International Officer is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive
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