

# British Equestrian Dressage Selection Policy

## Paris 2024 Olympic Games

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Equestrian Dressage squad (the “Squad”) for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games (the “Games”) will be selected by the British Dressage Selection Panel (the “Selectors”), which is endorsed by British Equestrian (BEF), and nominated to the British Olympic Association (BOA) by the BEF for selection to Team GB.
- 1.2. References to selection for the 2024 Olympic Games in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations that will be selected. References to the “Squad” in this Policy are to be construed accordingly. Additional “Reserve” combinations will also be referred to.
- 1.3. References to the “Squad” relate to the four (4) athlete/horse combinations who travel to the Games, of which three (3) will compete for the Team Competition as well as the Individual Competition at the Games and will be known as the “Team”. The fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) athlete/horse combination will be the reserve/substitute.

### 2. Objectives

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

- 2.1. Primary objective: Win the Team Gold at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- 2.2. Secondary objective: Win Individual medals at the Paris 2024 Olympic 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 confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

### 4. Selection Panel and attendees

- 4.1. The Olympic Squad Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Independent Chair of selectors (non-voting)  
Chief Selector (voting)  
Selector (voting)  
Selector (voting)

Sarah Rowell  
Judy Harvey  
Jenny Ward  
Anne Keen

4.2. Non-Voting Experts present at the Olympic 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. The intent is that these individuals will normally attend in person, but they may join the meeting remotely.*

Performance Director (PD) or their chosen representative (as approved by the CEOs of BEF and BD)  
Dressage Performance Manager (PM) (if required by the selectors)  
Dressage Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet) (if required by the selectors)  
Second Opinion Veterinary Surgeon (Vet) (if required by the selectors)  
World Class Programme (WCP) Athlete Health Lead (if required by the selectors)  
Data Analysis Expert

Also present:

BEF appointed minute taker.

4.3. Observers who may attend the Selection Meeting, as approved by the WCP Performance Director.  
*The intent is that these individuals will normally attend in person, but in exceptional circumstances they may join the meeting remotely.*

CEO of BEF  
UK Sport Representative  
British Olympic Association (BOA) Representative  
British Elite Athletes Association Representative  
CEO of British Dressage

4.4. 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 interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as they arise and using the conflict of interest form. If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict.

4.5. All Selectors, with the exception of the Independent Chair of 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 interest. In the event of an abstention by one of the Selectors and the remaining Selectors reaching an equality of votes, the Chief Selector will have the casting and deciding vote. In the event of the Chief Selector being required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest, the Performance Director or their chosen representative will have the casting and deciding vote.

4.6. The Team Veterinary Surgeon and Second Opinion Veterinary Surgeon will attend the selection meeting if required, as non-voting experts, with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.

4.7. The WCP Athlete Health Lead (non-voting expert) 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 Dressage Performance Manager (PM) may be required to attend selection meetings as a non-voting expert. If required, they will provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of past and future anticipated performance, assessment of 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 BOA.
- 4.10. Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this Selection Policy, having regard for the criteria set out below, to use their 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 Dressage Selection Policy for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games is compiled in consultation with the BOA, British Dressage (BD) Board Directors, British Equestrian Board Directors, BD Selectors, BEF / BD Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), athletes, PD and PM.

## **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 / BD. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Chief Selector) and the section revised will be published on the BEF and BD websites.

## **7. Minimum eligibility requirement and availability for consideration for selection**

- 7.1. The BD 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 Paris 2024 Olympic Games ("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 rules.
  - e. The horse is fully registered with BD for 2024.

- f. Neither athlete or horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games under BEF, BD, BOA, FEI, a Member Body or International Olympic Committee (IOC) 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 (if 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.
- 7.2. In addition, as a condition of selection for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, an athlete/horse combination must meet the following criteria:
- a. All athlete and horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete at the Olympic Games before 23:59 hours on the 02 June 2024 in order to be eligible to be considered for selection. The registration of intent form can be found [here](#). By signing the Register of Intent (ROI) form, the athlete confirms that they have read and agree to abide by the terms set out in this selection policy.
  - b. The Performance Director reserves the right to add any athlete/horse combination to the register of intent list at any time prior to the nomination Selection meeting.
  - c. To be able to participate in the Games all athletes/horses must achieve, as a combination, the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) set out in Section C of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) Qualification System – Games of the XXXIII – Paris 2024 for Dressage, updated 24 October 2023. This document and the list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website. See <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/paris-2024>.
  - d. The athlete must have been born on or before 31 December 2008 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Article 606.1.3).
  - e. The horse must be born on or before 31 December 2016 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Article 606.2.1).
  - f. Horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games must have been registered with the FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the athlete (GBR) by 15 January 2024 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Article 606.2.2.1). Horses with multinational ownership must be registered with the FEI by 15 January 2024 under the name of the nation for which the horse will compete during the Games (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 606.2.2.2).
  - g. No commercial prefix or suffix will be included with the name of a horse on any Olympic participation/entry list, start list or results. The FEI will reserve the right to amend any horse's name accordingly (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Article 606.2.5).
  - h. Athletes will be obliged to sign and adhere to the BOA Team Member Agreement and to abide by the British Equestrian Team Charter and the 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 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024), which are available at:

<https://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI%20Olympic%20Regulations%20Paris%202024%20Equestrian%20Approved%20at%20FEI%20GA%202022%20Updated%2011Oct2023%20clean%20version.pdf>

## 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 be expected to compete in the FEI Grand Prix (Team and Individual Qualifier), the FEI Grand Prix Special (Team Final) and the Grand Prix Freestyle (Individual Final). The fourth Squad member will be the Team Reserve/Substitute. All Squad members 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 list.

9.2. The Selectors will also select a number of reserve combinations (the exact number will be decided in consultation with the PM/PD/Team Vet) who must come 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 a 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 (Clause 2). They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity. All of the criteria listed below will be assessed in no particular order and with no particular weighting.

- a. The athlete/horse combination's results during the qualification period. When considering results, due regard will be given to:
  - Primary consideration: scores obtained from all CDI 3\*, 4\*, 5\*, CDI-W or CDIO competitions from 1 January 2024 until the end of the Olympic qualifying period.
  - Secondary consideration: scores obtained from all CDI 3\*, 4\*, 5\*, CDI-W or CDIO competitions from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2023.
  - Scores obtained will be considered in alignment with the competition format for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games:
    - Scores achieved in Grand Prix Special (the test ridden in the Team final at the Games).
    - Scores achieved in Grand Prix (the test ridden in the Team and Individual qualifier at the Games that will support qualification to those Finals and secure the best possible draw in the Team Final at the Games).
    - Scores achieved in Grand Prix Freestyle (the test ridden in the Individual Final at the Games).
  - Scores in the Short Grand Prix may be taken into account as a final consideration, but only where agreement has not been reached following the primary and secondary considerations above.

- The performance trajectory of the combination.
  - The experience and standing of the judges in relation to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games judges.
  - The quality and competitiveness of the starters.
  - The scores obtained by the athlete/horse combination at previous relevant FEI international championships.
  - The likely contribution of the athlete/horse combination to achieve the Objectives set out in Clause 2.
  - The commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Games according to their and their horse's specific requirements as agreed by the PM alongside the PD, Team Vet and WCP Lead of Athlete Health.
  - The reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement during the period up to and including the Olympic Qualifying period.
- b. Fitness and soundness of the horse to compete to their full potential throughout the Games:
- All horses under consideration may be required to be examined by the Team Vet (or another veterinary surgeon appointed by the PD/PM). This will normally take place at a yard visit but, if necessary, may take place during a competition or via a home vet.
  - Once a horse has been included in the Nominated Entries and the Final Sport Entries, athletes must ensure that the Team Vet is informed immediately of any changes/treatments taking place in the horse's veterinary plan. Once an Athlete has submitted a Register of Intent form, they are expected to facilitate open communication concerning their horse's management between their own veterinary surgeon and the Team Vet to support the selectors in selecting the Squad in line with the Objectives of this policy.
  - The selection process may include the taking of bloods for pre-Games testing including pre-arrival testing.
- c. Fitness of the human athlete to compete to their full potential:
- An athlete must declare to the PM or WCP Lead of Athlete Health 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 World Class Programme Chief Medical Officer/WCP Lead of Athlete Health may also pass judgement on an athlete's capacity to compete optimally from a medical perspective. However, it is noted this is done confidentially and without any detail of the issue without the athlete's explicit consent.
- d. Conduct of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, partners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- e. Willingness of the athlete and their home team, owners, coaches, sports science and medical staff, grooms and others that may be assisting the athlete during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#) and the BOA Team Member Agreement.
- f. Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- g. The athlete and/or owner's commitment to make their horse/s available as a reserve both travelling and non-travelling for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

10.2. The Selectors, in collaboration with the PM, 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. Participation will be compulsory except under exceptional circumstances agreed with the PM.

## 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 to include three (3) reserve athlete/horse combinations. The Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability will be submitted to the FEI by 25 June 2024.

11.2. The Selectors will select the Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games (which may or may not be set out in order of preference of three (3) Team members and one (1) travelling reserve), plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference) on or around the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 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 – notwithstanding that one combination will necessarily need to be nominated as a reserve for sport entry purposes – the decision as to which three (3) athlete/horse combinations will actually be selected to compete may be deferred until arrival at the Olympic Games and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Grand Prix as set out in Clause 12 below.

11.3. The Chief Selector 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 BOA’s ratification of their selection by the PD or PM and are subject to the requirements of the BOA Team Announcement.

11.4. The BOA, in consultation with the PD, will announce the Squad for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in June 2024, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

11.5. The three (3) athlete/horse combinations that will compete for the Team and Individual medals will be announced in line with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

11.6. Key Dates:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| • Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around the      | 10 June 2024 |
| • Definite Entries selection meeting on or around the       | 17 June 2024 |
| • MER Deadline  | 24 June 2024 |
| • Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability Deadline | 25 June 2024 |
| • Final Sport Entries Deadline                              | 8 July 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 and the proposed running order for the Team Final (if qualified). If not already informed before travel, the PM will inform the Squad accordingly after assessment of the condition of the horses post travel and the health of the athlete to compete to their maximum potential. 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. The PM may subsequently make amendments to the Team running order at any time up to 20 minutes

after the end of the Grand Prix competition, if deemed necessary to do so. This decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity and will not be contestable, it will be final subject to approval by the BOA and in accordance with the late athlete replacement policy.

### **13. De-selection**

- 13.1. Between the announcement of the Squad and the date of Final Sport Entries on 8 July 2024, the final decision as to whether to de-select, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, PD and Team Vet.
- 13.2. After the Final Sport Entries on 8 July 2024, and prior to departure to the Games, de-selection and replacement decisions for the Squad will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM and PD, subject to approval by the BOA.
- 13.3. Once departure to the Games has commenced, all selection and de-selection decisions will be made in accordance with para 12.1 of this policy.
- 13.4. De-selection will normally only occur in exceptional circumstances (such as injury or illness to athlete or horse, or a performance issue that indicate a combination is unlikely to contribute to the objectives of the policy, or as detailed in 13.5 below). At all times such decisions will be in accordance with the IOC Late Athlete Replacement Policy (to be published).
- 13.5. 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, Athlete Agreement, BEF Rules, BD Code of Conduct and the BOA Team Members Agreement. Failure to do so may result in the athlete and horse combination being de-selected.
  - 13.5.1. 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 BOA 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.
  - 13.5.2. The Athlete will be notified of any review of their selection under section 13.5.1 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.
  - 13.5.3. 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.
- 13.6. 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. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM, could lead to the athlete/horse combination being de-selected.



- 13.7. At any time after announcement of the Squad, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, a recommendation will be made by the PM to the relevant decision-making body (Selectors or BOA) following an examination by a World Class Programme-approved Human SSM Practitioner and in consultation with the PD. 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”.
- 13.8. At any time after the announcement of the Squad, in the case of a horse being considered unfit, due to veterinary reasons, to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, a recommendation will be made by the PM to the relevant decision-making body (Selectors or BOA) following an examination by a World Class Programme approved veterinarian and in consultation with the PD.
- 13.9. 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 13.5.2 and 13.5.3.

#### **14. General**

- 14.1. Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation may 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 followed wherever possible.
- 14.2. Force majeure: In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF, BD or BOA’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, BOA and Chief Executives of the BEF and BD, either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from competition.
- 14.3. Communication (publication): The Selection Policy will be placed on the BEF and BD websites and copies will be available on request from the BEF/BD offices.
- 14.4. Enquiries: Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BEF/BD offices or the PM.
- 14.5. Point of Contact: The PM is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

#### **15. Appeals process and procedures**

- 15.1. 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 the Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach.
- 15.2. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Chief Executive of the BEF, in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the “Appeals Process”), within two working days, of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors’ decision.

- 15.3. A copy of the appeal must also be submitted to the Chief Executive of BD. The Chief Executive 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.
- 15.4. 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 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 \(britishequestrian.org.uk\)](https://britishequestrian.org.uk/annex-h-2-bef-olympic-and-paralympic-games-selection-appeal-rules.pdf)