



# **THE BRITISH EQUESTRIAN OLYMPIC SELECTION APPEALS POLICY**

**21<sup>ST</sup> REVISION - JANUARY 2025**

## INTRODUCTION

1. Any person who:
  - (i) is a Member;
  - (ii) is eligible for selection under the relevant Olympic or Paralympic Selection Policy; and
  - (iii) is directly affected by and dissatisfied with a Selection Decision made pursuant to that Selection Policy by the selectors of the BEF Member;may invoke the appeal procedure set out in these BEF Olympic and Paralympic Selection Appeal Rules ("AR").

## INTERPRETATION

2. In these AR the following words or phrases shall bear the following meanings unless the context otherwise requires:

"Appeal" means an appeal brought under these AR;

"Appellant" means a Member who invokes the appeal procedure set out in these AR;

"BEF" means the British Equestrian Federation;

"BEF Member" means a member body of the BEF which is the governing body of an Olympic or Paralympic discipline;

"BOA" means the British Olympic Association;

"BPA" means the British Paralympic Association;

"Chair" means the Chair of the Panel appointed pursuant to AR 12;

"Chief Executive" means the Chief Executive of the BEF;

"Day" means any working day (other than a Saturday, Sunday, or a nominated bank holiday in England) and "Days" shall be construed accordingly;

"DRM" means the delegate registration meeting for entries to the relevant Olympic/Paralympic discipline as the case may be;

"DRM Deadline" means 11.55pm on the day before the date of the DRM;

"Hour" means an hour of any Day, and "Hours" shall be construed accordingly;

"Member" means an individual member of a BEF Member;

"Notice of Appeal" means a notice complying with AR 10;

"Notification" of a Selection Decision means whichever is the earlier of the date and time on which the Selection Decision was actually notified to the Appellant and the date and time on which the Selection Decision was announced;

"Panel" means an Appeal panel appointed to hear an Appeal pursuant to AR 12;

"Reply" means a reply made in compliance with AR 20;

“Respondent” means the relevant BEF Member against whose Selection Decision the Appeal is made;

“Selectors” means the Olympic Selection Panel identified in the relevant Selection Policy;

“Selection Decision” means a decision to nominate a rider/horse combination to the BOA or the BPA as the case may be for selection as a member of the Team to represent Great Britain at the Olympic or Paralympic Games;

“Selection Policy” means the Olympic or Paralympic selection policy pursuant to which rider/horse combinations are selected for nomination to the BOA or the BPA as the case may be for selection as a member of the Team to represent Great Britain at the Olympic or Paralympic Games;

“Standard Directions” means the directions set out at ARs 20-21.

3. Where any written notice or document is to be given or supplied to the BEF under these AR it must either be sent by email, fax or delivered by hand to the BEF at Equestrian House, Abbey Park, Stareton, Warwickshire CV8 2 RH and marked for the attention of the BEF Chief Executive.
4. Where any written notice or document is to be given or supplied to any other person under these AR it must either be sent by email, fax or delivered by hand to the last known address of that person.
5. A document is deemed to be served as follows:
  - in the case of email at whichever is the earlier of the time and date of a reply or a read receipt;
  - in the case of a fax at whichever is the earlier of the time and date of a reply and the time and date of a fax transmission and receipt notice;
  - and in the case of a by hand delivery at the time and date of signed receipt or acknowledgement by or on behalf of the relevant person.
6. References in these AR to a party’s signing, filing or serving any document or taking any other procedural step include the signature, filing or service of that document or the taking of such other procedural step by the party’s solicitor.
7. In computing the number of Hours within which anything under these AR is required to be done the Hour on which the period begins and the Hour upon or by which the thing is to be done shall not be included.
8. For the purpose of calculating a period of time in Days under these AR, such period shall begin to run on the Day following the Day when a notice or other communication is given.

## GROUNDS OF APPEAL

9. An Appeal against a Selection Decision may only be brought on the grounds that:
  - a) The procedures detailed in the relevant Selection Policy were not followed;

- b) The Selection Decision was a decision which no rational body of selectors could reasonably have made.

## COMMENCEMENT OF APPEAL

10. An Appeal shall be commenced by lodging a Notice of Appeal with the Chief Executive of the BEF and the Chief Executive of the Respondent, within the timeframe specified in the relevant Selection Policy.
11. The Notice of Appeal must (to the extent possible within the time available):
  - Set out the grounds on which the Appeal is made and the remedy sought;
  - Provide full details of the basis of the Appeal;
  - Be accompanied by all relevant documentation which the Appellant wishes to rely on in support of the Appeal;
  - State whether the Appellant is seeking an oral hearing of the Appeal;
  - Be signed by the Appellant; and
  - Be accompanied by an appeal fee in the form of a cheque made out to the BEF or confirmation of a bank transfer to the BEF (details available on request) in the sum of £300. The fee will be held by the BEF until the Appeal is decided. If the Appeal is dismissed the fee will not be refunded. Otherwise the Panel may in its discretion order the other party to pay some or all of the fee.
11. The Respondent may on a confidential basis inform Members whose selection may be affected by a successful Appeal of the Notice of Appeal and such Members, or the Respondent, may request the permission of the Chair to be made a party to the Appeal in which event the Chair shall provide directions as to such Members' participation in the Appeal.

## APPEAL PANEL

12. The Chief Executive will notify the Judicial Panel Chair that an Appeal has been lodged and the Judicial Panel Chair will then appoint an Appeal panel of three to hear the Appeal and nominate one of the Panel as Chair. The Chair shall be legally qualified. The Panel will be drawn from the Judicial Panel and stewards of BEF as approved by the BEF Board, but will not include any person who is a member, or member of a committee, of the Respondent to the Appeal or is otherwise connected to the Respondent. The BEF Chief Executive may also refer matters to Sport Resolutions (UK) (a trading name of The Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Ltd - Company No. 3351039). Sport Resolutions shall then be asked to convene an Appeal Panel, (normally comprising of three persons) under the Chairmanship of a legally qualified person who may be a practicing Solicitor or Barrister.
13. As soon as is reasonably practicable following the appointment of the Panel the Head of Secretariat (or Sport Resolutions, as appropriate) will notify the parties of the members of the Panel.
14. Unless otherwise directed by the Panel the Selection Decision will remain in force pending the outcome of the Appeal.

15. If the Appellant and the Respondent at any time notify the Chief Executive and/or the Chair of the Panel as the case may be that the parties have reached an agreement to settle the Appeal following a mediation process then the Appeal shall be stayed.

## DIRECTIONS

16. The Chair of the Panel may give directions in relation to the conduct or disposal of the Appeal at any time.
17. In the absence of any specific directions the Standard Directions set out in AR 20 -21 shall apply.
18. Where an Appellant fails to comply with the provisions of these AR or any direction given by the Chair of the Panel the Appeal may be dismissed by the Panel without further consideration. Where a Respondent fails to comply with the provisions of these AR or any direction given by the Chair of the Panel the Appeal may be allowed by the Panel without further consideration.
19. In order to deal with the matter expeditiously the Appeal shall proceed and be determined by means of written submissions unless either party applies to the Panel for an oral hearing at the commencement of the Appeal, or during the course of the written submissions and/ or the Chair of the Panel so directs.

## STANDARD DIRECTIONS

20. Unless the parties are otherwise directed under the provisions of AR 16, the following Standard Directions shall apply:
  - a) Within two Days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal the Respondent shall submit to the Panel and serve on the Appellant a Reply which must
    - Provide full details of the basis on which it refutes the Appeal;
    - Be accompanied by all relevant documentation on which the Respondent wishes to rely in refuting the Appeal;
    - State whether the Respondent is seeking an oral hearing of the Appeal; and
    - Be signed by or on behalf of the chief executive of the Respondent.
  - b) Unless the Chair of the Panel permits, the parties shall not submit further written material after the time limit for the submission of the Reply.
21. Subject to any specific directions which the Chair of the Panel shall give the following procedure shall apply to any oral hearing:
  - a. The Chair of the Panel shall fix the date, time and place of the oral hearing, which may be held virtually.
  - b. Unless the Chair of the Panel orders otherwise the hearing shall be held in private. At the discretion of the Chair of the Panel external independent observers from the BOA or the BPA as the case may be and from UK Sport may be permitted to attend.

- c. Any party may choose to be legally represented at the hearing.
- d. The parties must notify the Panel and the other party as soon as is practicable and in any event within any time limits set by the Chair of the Panel of the identity of any witnesses they wish to call and the Chair of the Panel may require that each party shall disclose the witness statement of any such witness both to the Panel and to the opposing party. The Chair of the Panel shall decide whether such witness should be required to attend and give evidence at the hearing.
- e. The oral hearing shall be conducted as follows:-
  - i) The Appellant shall give their evidence together with any witness evidence or witness statement relied upon following which the Respondent shall give its evidence together with any witness evidence or witness statement relied upon;
  - ii) Either party may cross examine the other and any witness called by them;
  - iii) Following the giving of evidence the Appellant and then the Respondent shall summarise their respective cases.
- f. The non-attendance of a party at an oral hearing in respect of which that party has received notice shall not prevent the hearing being held in their absence.
- g. The Panel shall indicate whether they can reach their decision and finding on the day of the hearing.

## DECISION

- 22. The Panel shall notify the parties and the Chief Executive of its decision in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event no later than the DRM Deadline. Accordingly, should the Panel consider it appropriate it may deliver its decision orally immediately following the conclusion of a hearing and shall be permitted to provide its written reasons within 28 days.
- 23. The Panel shall be entitled to:
  - i) Confirm the Selection Decision and reject the Appeal; or
  - ii) Rescind the Selection Decision and either:
    - a) remit the matter back to the BEF Member's Selectors with a direction to make a new decision within a prescribed time scale; or
    - b) in the event that the Panel concludes that the BEF Member's Selectors did not follow the procedures set out in the Selection Policy and that it is plain that if they had done so the Appellant would have been selected, direct that the BEF Member nominate the Appellant to the BOA or BPA as the case may be for selection.
- 24. The Panel has the power to order the unsuccessful party to pay the costs of the successful party; the amount may be agreed by the parties or determined by the Chair of the Panel in default.

25. The Panel may make such directions as it considers fit regarding the contribution by parties to the administrative expenses of the BEF (or Sport Resolutions, as appropriate).
26. The decision of the Panel shall be final and binding on the parties.

#### **PUBLICITY**

27. Neither the Appellant nor the Respondent shall make any public comment on the subject matter of the Appeal prior to the determination of the Appeal by the Panel.
28. The Panel's decision and finding may be published by the BEF.

#### **GENERAL**

29. The overriding objective of the AR is to enable the BEF to deal with appeals justly. These AR are intended to provide an accelerated procedure to enable a Selection Decision to be resolved as quickly as is reasonably possible having regard to the nature of and tight timetables applicable to nominations for selection to the Teams to represent Great Britain at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and in particular the requirement to meet the DRM Deadline. It is vital for Members requesting an Appeal and those responding to such an Appeal to appreciate that the outcome of the Appeal may have consequences affecting other Members. Any delay therefore in commencing and processing the Appeal may ultimately prejudice the outcome of the Appeal. Accordingly dealing with an Appeal under these AR justly includes in particular ensuring that the Appeal is dealt with fairly and expeditiously.
30. In any unforeseen circumstances or in any situation which cannot be resolved by recourse to the provisions of these AR the issues shall be resolved by reference to the overriding objective and these AR.