

British Equestrian Dressage Senior Team Selection Policy

2025 European Championships

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Equestrian Dressage squad (the "Squad") for the 2025 European Championships (the "Championships") will be selected by the British Dressage (BD) Selection Panel (the "Selectors"), which is endorsed by British Equestrian (BEF).
- 1.2. References to selection for the Championships in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations that will be selected. Additional "Reserve" combinations will also be referred to.

2. Objectives

The purpose of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential to achieve its objectives.

- 2.1. Primary objective: To win a Team and/or Individual medal at the FEI 2025 Dressage European Championships.
- 2.2. Secondary objective: To offer the opportunity of providing Championship experience to potential future Olympic Games athlete and/or horse.

3. Confidentiality

- 3.1. It is vital 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 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. The Performance Director (or their chosen representative as approved by the CEO's of BEF and BD) will attend all selection meetings, normally in person but in exceptional circumstances may join the meeting remotely.

4.3. Non-Voting Experts present at the Selection Meeting:

- Dressage Performance Manager (PM)
- Dressage Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet)
- World Class Programme (WCP) Athlete Health Lead
- Data Analysis Expert

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.

Also present:
BEF appointed minute taker.

4.4. Observers who may attend the Selection Meeting, as approved by the WCP Performance Director.

- CEO of BEF
- UK Sport Representative
- British Elite Athletes Association Representative
- CEO of BD.

The intent is that these individuals will normally attend in person, but in exceptional circumstances they may join the meeting remotely.

- 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 declaration form. If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict.
- 4.5. 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 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 Vet will attend the selection meeting, if required, 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 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. 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. 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/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 Senior Team Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BD Board Directors, BEF Board Directors, BD Selectors, BEF and BD Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), athletes, PD and PM.

6. Changes in Policy

- 6.1. The Selectors or the PD will have the right, in exceptional circumstances, to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time 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 Chief Selector or PD) and 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 Championships. Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Championships.
 - 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. To be able to participate in the Championships all athletes/horses must achieve, as a combination, the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) set out in the Seniors Section of the [FEI Dressage Qualification Criteria 2025](#) document. This document and the list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website. See <https://fei.org>
 - d. The athlete must have been born on or before 31 December 2009 ([FEI Dressage Rules, 26th Edition, Articles 401 and 429](#)).
 - e. The horse must be born on or before 31 December 2017 ([FEI Dressage Rules, 26th Edition, Article 401](#)).

- f. 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.
 - g. The athlete is a full member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD, BEF, or any other Member body rules.
 - h. The horse is fully registered with BD and the FEI for 2025.
 - i. Neither athlete nor horse may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Championships under FEI, BEF, or any BEF Member Body rules.
- 7.2. In addition, to be considered for selection for the Championships, an athlete/horse combination must have registered their intent to compete (ROI).
- a. All athlete/horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete at the Championships before 23:59 hours on the 05 May 2025 to be considered for selection. The [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 Selection Policy.
 - i. The PD reserves the right to add any athlete/horse combination to the ROI list at any time prior to the start to the nomination Selection meeting.
 - b. With respect to phase one selection, which solely applies to WCP A+, A, B+ and B funded athletes, there is no requirement to submit an ROI.
- 7.3. In addition, as a condition of selection for the Championships, an athlete/horse combination must meet the following criteria:
- a. Athletes will be obliged to adhere and to abide by the [BEF Team Charter](#) and the [BD Code of Conduct](#).
 - b. All athletes being considered for selection will be deemed to have accepted that they, their horses, and support teams will take part in pre-export quarantine, if required.
 - c. 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, competition format, and arrival times and dates.

8. Qualification period

- 8.1. The qualification period for Teams and Individuals will be in accordance with the [FEI Dressage Rules, 26th Edition, Articles 405](#) and the [FEI Dressage Qualification Criteria 2025](#) document.

9. Squad size

- 9.1. A squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be selected as the Team and will be expected to compete in the FEI Grand Prix (Team competition) together with, if qualified, the FEI Grand Prix Special (Individual competition) and the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle (Individual competition). 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 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 order to achieve the Objectives of the Policy. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity. All 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 2025 up to and including the Championships definite entry date.
 - Secondary consideration: scores obtained from all CDI 3*, 4*, 5*, CDI-W, CDIO or OG competitions from 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2024.
 - Scores obtained will be considered in alignment with the competition format for the European Championships:
 - Scores achieved in Grand Prix (GP) [the competition in which the Team medal will be decided].
 - Scores achieved in Grand Prix Special (GPS) [the competition in which an Individual medal can be won], notwithstanding that athlete/horse combinations must also have scores from the GP that will support qualification to the GPS.
 - Scores achieved in Grand Prix Freestyle (GPFs) [the competition in which an Individual medal can be won], notwithstanding that athlete/horse combinations must also have scores from the GPS that support qualification to the GPFs.

- 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 FEI Senior Dressage European Championships 2025.
 - The quality and competitiveness of the starters.
 - The combination's likelihood to develop into a contributor to maximise the probability of the winning of medals/achieving the objectives set out in Section 2.
 - The commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Championships 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 Championships definite entry date.
- b. Fitness and soundness of the horse to compete to their full potential throughout the Championships.
- 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 Definite 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-Championships 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 at the FEI Dressage European Championships 2025. 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 FEI Senior Dressage European Championships 2025 to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#).
 - f. The athlete and/or owner's commitment to make their horse/s available as a reserve both travelling and non-travelling for the FEI Senior Dressage European Championships 2025.
- 10.1. 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 may choose to hold a phase one meeting on or around on or around 14 April 2025.
- 11.2. Athletes that are currently graded on the WCP APA Matrix as A+, A, B+ or B funded may be considered for selection during a phase one selection meeting on or around 14 April 2025. Phase one selection is based upon the selection panel meeting and determining that, in their expert opinion, an athlete has an exceptional chance of contributing to objective 1 of this policy and should be directly selected onto the definite entries list.

The purpose of phase one selection is to enable such athlete/horse combinations to prepare optimally for the Championships. Phase one selection is entirely subject to agreeing, and following, a performance plan with the PM and signed off by the PD, on a date two weeks post the phase one meeting. In order to confirm selection onto the definite entry list at the final selection, the performance plan must be followed, and all objectives achieved as determined by the PM and PD. If the performance plan or objectives are not followed, or achieved, the athlete's phase one selection status will be removed, and they will be considered for definite entry selection alongside all other athletes at the final selection meeting.

For the purposes of clarity, selection via the Phase 1 selection route, places the combination on to the definite entries list only. Decisions around the team, individual or reserve places will follow the process detailed in 12.1. Phase 1 selection is not open to appeal.

- 11.3. The Selectors will hold the Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around 08 July 2025. The Nominated Entry list will comprise of up to eight (8) athlete/horse combinations. The selectors may also select several Reserve athlete/horse combinations for the nominated entry list, which may or may not be set out in rank order of preference.
- 11.4. The Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability will be submitted to the FEI by the [TBC].

11.5. The selectors will hold the Definite Entries selection meeting on or around the 28 July 2025. The Selectors will select the Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Championships. The selectors may also select several Reserve athlete/horse combinations for the squad, which may or may not be set out in order of preference.

11.6. 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 their selection by the PD or PM and are subject of the requirements of the Team Announcement.

11.7. The BEF, in consultation with the BD, will announce the Squad for the 'Championships'.

11.8. Key Dates:

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| • Phase 1 selection on or around | 14 April 2025 |
| • ROI Deadline | 05 May 2025 |
| • Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around the | 08 July 2025 |
| • Definite Entries selection meeting on or around the | 28 July 2025 |
| • MER Deadline | [TBC] |
| • Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability Deadline | [TBC] |
| • Definite Entries Deadline | [TBC] |

12. Post selection Team running order

12.1. The PM, in consultation with the PD, Chief Selector and Team Vet, will decide the proposed running order for the Team competition. If not already informed before travel, the PM will inform the Squad of the running order accordingly after assessment of the condition of the horses post travel and the health of the athlete to compete to their maximum potential and, in consultation with the PD and Team Vet, may make changes to the proposed running order in line with the FEI timeframes outlined in the competition schedule.

12.2. 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 be final, it will not be contestable.

12.3. Once departure to the Championships has commenced, de-selection and replacement decisions to the Squad will be made by the PD, PM and Team Vet.

13. Withdrawal

13.1. Athletes have the right to withdraw, themselves or a horse, from the selection process at any time after completing an ROI. To withdraw, athletes should confirm in writing (e.g. email/text/WhatsApp) to the PM that they no longer wish to be considered for selection.

14. De-selection

14.1. Between the conclusion of the Nominated Entries Selection Meeting and the submission of the Nominated Entries, 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.

- 14.2. Between the submission of the Nominated Entries and the submission of the Definite Entries, 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.
- 14.3. After the submission of the Definite Entries, and prior to departure to the Championships, de-selection and replacement decisions for the Squad will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, PD and Team Vet.
- 14.4. Once departure to the Championships has commenced, all selection and de-selection decisions will be made in accordance with 12 and 14.5 of this policy.
- 14.5. 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 14.6 below).
- 14.6. 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 BEF Team Charter, Athlete Agreement, BEF Rules, BD Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in the athlete and horse combination being de-selected.
 - 14.6.1. 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 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.
 - 14.6.2. The Athlete will be notified of any review of their selection under section 14.6.1 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.
 - 14.6.3. 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.
- 14.7. 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.
- 14.8. At any time after the conclusion of the Nominations selection meeting, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, a recommendation will be made by the PM to the Selectors following an examination by a World Class Programme-approved Human Sports Science and Medicine (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”.

- 14.9. At any time after the conclusion of the Nominations selection meeting, 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 Selectors following an examination by a World Class Programme approved veterinarian and in consultation with the PD.
- 14.10. 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 14.6.2 and 14.6.3.

14. General

- 14.1. Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation of the Championships, 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 or BD 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 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, excluding those decisions which are specifically non-appealable as in 14.10.
- 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 BD CEO 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](#).