

British Equestrian Eventing Senior Team Selection Policy 2025 European Championships

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Equestrian Eventing squad (the 'Squad') for the 2025 European Championships (the 'Championships') will be selected by the British Eventing (BE) 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 six (6) 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: Win the Team Competition gold medal at the Championship.
- 2.2. Secondary objective: Win as many Individual Competition medals as possible at the Championship.
- 2.3. Tertiary objective: Team and Individual places may be used to provide Championship experience.

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:

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| • Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting) | Graham McPherson |
| • Selector (voting) | Nigel Taylor |
| • Selector (voting) | Sarah Bullen |
| • Selector (voting) | Mark Phillips |

- 4.2. The Performance Director (or their chosen representative) will normally attend all selection meetings, normally in person but in exceptional circumstances may join the meeting remotely.

4.3. Non-Voting Experts present at the European Championships selection meeting:

- Eventing Performance Manager (PM) (non-voting except in relation to section 4.5)
- Eventing High Performance Coach (HPC)
- Eventing Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet)
- World Class Programme (WCP) Lead of Athlete Health
- Data Analysis Expert

The individual expert's opinion may be sought by the Selectors, but they will not have a vote at the point of selection. They may contribute fully to the 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
- British Eventing CEO

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

- 4.5. The Independent Chair of Selectors will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The Chair will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts 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.
- 4.6. With the exception of the Chair, all Selectors will have equal voting rights. Decisions must be reached by a majority and with no abstentions, unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest. In the event that the remaining Selectors reach an equality of votes, the PM will have the casting vote.
- 4.7. The HPC will attend the selection meeting if required as a non-voting expert with the sole purpose of providing relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of anticipated performance, assessment of risk factors, recommendations regarding final preparation/training for each candidate.
- 4.8. The Team Veterinary Surgeon 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.

- 4.9. The WCP Lead of Athlete Health 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.
- 4.10. The PM will normally attend all selection meetings. They will not have a vote except as provided in section 4.5. They will, in coordination with the HPC, provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of anticipated performance, assessment of risk factors.
- 4.11. Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this Selection Policy, having regard to the criteria set out below, to use their discretion to select athlete/horse combinations onto the Team. 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 Eventing Senior Team Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BE Board Directors, BEF Board Directors, Independent Chair of Selectors, BEF and BE CEOs, BE International Director, Selectors, 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 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 and PM. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors or PD) and will be published on the BE and BEF websites.

7. Minimum eligibility requirement and availability for consideration for selection

- 7.1. The BE International Secretary 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 license 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 [FEI Eventing Rules, 26th Edition, Articles 517 and 518.1](#). This document and the list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website: www.fei.org
 - d. The athlete must have been born on or before 31 December 2007 ([FEI Eventing Rules, 26th Edition, Article 503.2](#)).
 - e. The horse must be born on or before 31 December 2016 (nine years of age) ([FEI Eventing Rules, 26th Edition, Article 503.4](#)).
 - 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 BE and is not serving any suspension under BE, BEF, or any other Member Body rules.
 - h. The horse is fully registered with BE and the FEI for 2025.
 - i. Neither athletes nor horse may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Championships under BEF, FEI, 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 16 May 2025 to be considered for selection. The [ROI form can be found here](#). By signing the ROI, 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 Nominations Selection meeting.
 - b. With respect to phase one selection, which solely applies to World Class Programme 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 [British Equestrian Team Charter](#) and the [BE 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 qualification guidelines [FEI Eventing Rules, 26th Edition, Article 518.1](#).

9. Squad/Team size

- 9.1. A Squad of six (6) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which four (4) will make up the Team and will compete in the Team Competition and Individual Competition. The remaining two (2) athlete horse combinations will compete in the 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/HPC/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 horses may be expected to travel with the Squad horses in case there is requirement for a substitution.

10. Selection criteria

- 10.1. The Selectors will take into account the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion to select combinations onto the Squad. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity. All 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 the following (in no particular order):
 - i. Results from 4*L/S and 5* events in the preceding year (2024) until the end of the European Championships Qualifying Period
 - ii. the standing of the judges and the competition
 - iii. the difficulty of the cross country and/or showjumping courses

- iv. the cross-country terrain and ground conditions
 - v. the quantity and competitiveness of the starters
 - vi. the likely contribution of the combination to achieve the Objectives set out in clause 2
 - vii. the commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Championships as defined by the PM/HPC, Team Vet and human health team according to their and their horse's specific requirements to produce optimal results in the 2025 European Championships environment
 - viii. Results at events that have field of play similarities to the Championships, in the expert opinion of the selectors.
- b. Although the performance in all three phases will be taken into account by the Selectors, they reserve the right to select an athlete/horse combination with an outstanding talent or record in one or two of the three phases of the competition, if it is in the interests of achieving the Objectives set out in clause 2.
- c. Fitness and soundness of the horse. All horses under consideration may be required to be examined by the Team Vet (or another appointed veterinary surgeon if necessary). Athletes are obliged to notify the Team Vet of any change in their horses' health status or veterinary management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the Team Vet to ensure that the selectors can make rational decisions and so that specific support can be instigated where required. The selection process may include the taking of bloods for pre-Championships testing, including pre-arrival testing.
- d. 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 Championships. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
- e. 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 that this is done confidentially and without any detail of the issue without an athlete's explicit consent.
- f. Conduct of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, partners, coaches, connections and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- g. Willingness of the athlete and their home team, owners, coaches, Sport Science and Medical staff, grooms and others that may be assisting the athlete during the Championships, to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#).
- h. Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Championships.

- i. Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
 - j. The owner/s commitment to make their horse/s available as reserve both non travelling and travelling to the Championships.
 - k. Assessment by the Selectors that experience at the 2025 European Championships will be beneficial to the future prospects of a rider or combination.
- 10.2. The Selectors, in collaboration with the PM and HPC, 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 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. 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 Performance Manager and Performance Director. 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 the [18 June 2025. The nominated entry list will comprise of up to three times the entries (18) athlete/horse combinations should the selectors wish to do so. 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 18 August 2025.

- 11.5. The selectors will hold the Definite Entries selection meeting on or around the 12 August 2025. The Selectors will select the Squad of six (6) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Championships. The selectors may also select several Reserve athlete/horse combinations for the squad from the nominated list, which may or may not be set out in order of preference.
- 11.6. The PM will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until they are formally notified of the by the PD or PM and are subject to the requirements of the Team Announcement.
- 11.7. The six (6) athlete/horse combinations that will compete for the Team and Individual medals will be announced in line with the FEI Regulations for the Championships.
- 11.8. Key Dates (on or around):
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| • Phase one selection on or around | 14 April 2025 |
| • ROI Deadline | 16 May 2025 |
| • Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around | 18 June 2025 |
| • Definite Entries selection meeting on or around | 12 August 2025 |
| • MER Deadline | [TBC] |
| • Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability Deadline | [TBC] |
| • Definite Entries Deadline | [TBC] |

12. Team and Running Order and Substitution

- 12.1. The PM, in consultation with the HPC, Team Vet and PD, will decide the four (4) Team Members and the proposed running order. If not already informed before travel, the PM will inform the Squad accordingly after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel, the ground/weather/Field of Play conditions, and the health of the athlete to compete to their maximum potential. The Team and team running order will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity to the Objectives of this Selection Policy. This decision will not be contestable, it will be final.
- 12.2. The PM may also subsequently make amendments to the Team (substitution) and the order at any time up to two [2] hours before the start of the dressage phase, if deemed necessary to do so. This decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity, this decision is final and will not be contestable.
- 12.3. Additionally, if there is a need to deselect an athlete/horse combination from the squad or the Team for any reason, it will be made by the PM, in consultation with the PD, HPC, and Team Vet, in accordance with the deselection process detailed in clause 14 of this policy, this decision is final and will not be contestable.

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, HPC, PD and Team Vet.
- 14.2. Between the submission Nominated Entries and the submission of the Definite Entries on, the final decision as to whether to de-select, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, HPC, 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 clause 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, BE Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in the athlete and horse combination being de-selected.
 - a. 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 BE, BEF or any other statutory authority, the CEOs of BE 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Any de-selection decision made within 72 hours in advance of the team travelling 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 and/or HPC. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM and/or HPC, 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 or jump selected fences 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 to 72 hours prior to team travel, in accordance with clauses 14.6.2 and 14.6.3.

15. General

- 15.1. Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation Championships, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation might arise where a new and/or different Squad needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed wherever possible.
- 15.2. Force majeure: In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or BE control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or the withdrawal of World Class Programme funding, the BEF and BE Boards reserve the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD and Chief Executives of the BEF and BE, either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from competition.
- 15.3. Communication (publication): The Selection Policy will be placed on the BE and BEF websites and copies will be available on request from the BE/BEF offices.
- 15.4. Enquiries: Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BE/BEF offices or the PM.

15.5. Point of contact: The PM is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

16. Appeals process and procedures

- 16.1. Athletes have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors, but only on the grounds that the Selectors have failed to comply with this Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach, excluding those decisions which are non-appealable as in 14.10.
- 16.2. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the BEF CEO in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process") within two [2] working days of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.
- 16.3. A copy of the Appeal must also be submitted to the BE CEO. The BE 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.
- 16.4. For the avoidance of doubt the Appeal Process shall continue to run during the course of such discussion. However, in the event that both parties notify the BEF (within one 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.](#)