

# British Equestrian Para Dressage Team Selection Policy

## 2025 European Championships

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Equestrian Para 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:

- 2.1. Primary objective: To win medals in the Individual competitions at the FEI 2025 Para Dressage European Championships.
- 2.2. Secondary objective: Provide the necessary experience for athletes and/or horses at the FEI 2025 Para Dressage Championships, to prepare and develop combinations for future international success.

### 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 European Championships Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| • Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting) | Sarah Rowell      |
| • Chief Selector (voting)                     | Tracy-Anne Ormrod |
| • Selector (voting)                           | Islay Auty        |
| • Selector (voting)                           | Pamela Bushell    |

4.2 The Performance Director (or their chosen representative, as approved by the CEOs 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:

- Para Dressage Performance Manager (PM)
- Para Dressage Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet)
- Para Dressage WCP Coach(es)
- WCP Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
- 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

4.2. Observers who may attend the Selection Meeting, as approved by the WCP PD.

- CEO of BEF
- CEO of British Dressage
- UK Sport Representative
- British Elite Athletes' Association (BEAA) Representative.

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

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

4.4. All 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 of interest. In the event of an abstention by one of the selectors and the remaining selectors reaching an equality of votes, the PD or their chosen representative will have the casting vote.

4.5. The Para Dressage WCP Coach(es) will attend if required 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 combination.

4.6. The Para Dressage 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.

- 4.7. The WCP Chief Medical Officer (CMO) 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 PM will normally attend all selection meetings and, they will, in coordination with the WCP Coaches, provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of past and future anticipated performance, and risk factors.
- 4.9. 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 absolute 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 Para Dressage Team Selection Policy for the Championships is compiled in consultation with the BD Board Directors, BEF Board Directors, BD Selectors, BEF and BD CEOs, athletes, PD, PM and WCP Coaches.

## **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, PM and CEOs of BEF and BD. 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 BD and BEF websites.

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

- 7.1. The BD Para Dressage 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 [FEI Para Dressage Championships 2025 Qualification Criteria](#) document. This document and the list of qualifying events can be found on [the FEI website](#).
  - d. All athletes must reach a minimum of 14 years of age during 2025 ([FEI Para Dressage Rules, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 8426](#)).
  - e. Horses must have been born on or before 31 December 2019 (6 years of age - the age being counted from 1 January of the year of birth) ([FEI Para Dressage Rules, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 8430](#)).
  - 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 BEF, BD, FEI, any other 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 (Register of Intent - ROI).
- a. All athlete/horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete at the Championships before 23:59 hours on the 31 March 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. All athletes must be internationally classified with a 'confirmed' sport class status, or a 'review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2025.
  - b. Athletes will be obliged to adhere to and abide by the [BEF Team Charter](#) and the [BD Code of Conduct](#).

- c. 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 (where required).
- d. 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 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 criteria as outlined in the [FEI Para Dressage Rules, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 8404](#) and [FEI Para Dressage Championships 2025 Qualification Criteria](#) document.

## 9. Squad size

- 9.1. A Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, all of whom will compete in the Individual and Team Competitions, the three (3) best scores will count for the Team result. All Squad riders 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/WCP Coaches/Team Vet) 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 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 in clause 2. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.
  - a. The athlete/horse combination's results during the qualification period. When considering results, due regard will be given to:
    - Results obtained at CPEDI3\* competitions during the period 01 January 2025, up to and including the Championship definite entry date.
    - Secondary consideration will be given to 2024 scores achieved at CPEDI3\* competitions and the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.
    - Consideration of the current scores and medal trends internationally within each grade.
    - The experience and standing of the judges in relation to the 2025 Para Dressage European Championships.

- The quality of competition and competitiveness of starters.
  - Athlete/horse combinations whose results, profiles and performance trajectory most closely demonstrates their ability to achieve the Objectives in Section 2.
  - Demonstrable ability of the athlete/horse combination to produce peak performances in competitions most closely resembling a Championships. For clarity, this will normally involve the athlete/horse combination being able to demonstrate the ability to travel, compete and deliver comparable results at overseas competitions. In the interests of 'proven ability' the selectors reserve the right to include less experienced combinations within the Team to support their development for future international Championships.
  - Commitment of the athlete and their home team to prepare themselves and their horse(s) optimally for travelling to and producing peak performances at the 2025 European Para Dressage Championships environment and to buy in to performance preparation agreed by the PM alongside the PD, Team Vet, WCP CMO or Para Dressage Physiotherapist.
  - Fitness and soundness of the horse to compete at their full potential throughout the Championships.
  - All horses under consideration for selection will be required to be examined by the Team Vet (or another WCP appointed veterinary surgeon). Athletes are required to facilitate open communication between their home veterinary surgeon and the Team Vet to support selection decisions in line with the objectives of the policy.
  - Athletes are obliged to notify the Team vet and PM of any change in their horses' health status or veterinary management without delay.
  - The selection process may involve the taking of bloods for pre-Championship testing.
- c. Fitness of the human athlete to compete to their full potential.
- An athlete must declare any current or ongoing physical or mental reason that may impact their ability to perform at their peak on any given day at the FEI 2025 Para Dressage Championships. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
  - The WCP CMO/WCP Para Dressage Physiotherapist may also pass judgement on an athlete's capacity to compete optimally from a medical perspective. This is done confidentially, without details of the issue being shared without the athlete's explicit consent.
- d. Conduct of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including and without limitation partners, personal support, personal coaches, owners) 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 people associated with the athlete at the 2025 European Para Dressage Championships to abide by the British Equestrian Team Charter.
- 10.2. The Selectors, in collaboration with the PM, may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, test riding 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.



## 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 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. Phase one selection is not open to appeal.

11.3. The Selectors will hold the Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around 19 June 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 entry list and Certificates of Capability will be submitted to the FEI by [date TBC].

11.5. The Selectors will hold the Definite Entries selection meeting on or around the 09 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 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 their selection by the PM or the PD and are subject to the requirements of the Team Announcement.

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

### Key Dates:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • Phase 1 selection on or around                          | 14 April 2025 |
| • Nominated entries selection meeting on or around        | 19 June 2025  |
| • MER deadline  | [date TBC]    |
| • Nominated entry and Certificates of Capability Deadline | [date TBC]    |
| • Definite Entries selection meeting on or around:        | 09 July 2025  |
| • Definite Entries Deadline                               | [date TBC]    |

## 12. Post Selection

- 12.1 Team/running order: The PM, in consultation with the PD, Chief Selector and Team Vet, will decide the running order for the Team test should GBR have two athletes competing in the same grade. The decision regarding 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.

## 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 on [date TBC], the final decision as to whether to de-select, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, PD, WCP Coaches, Team Vet or CMO.
- 14.2 Between the submission of the Nominated Entries on [date TBC] and the submission of the Definite Entries on [Insert date], the final decision as to whether to de-select, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, PD, WCP Coaches, Team Vet or CMO.
- 14.3 After the submission of the Definite Entries on [date TBC], 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, WCP Coaches, Team Vet or CMO.
- 14.4 Once departure to the Championships has commenced, all selection and de-selection decisions will be made in accordance with 12.1, 13.1 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 indicates that 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 British Equestrian Team Charter, WCP 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 clause 14.4.1 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 and/or WCP Coaches. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM and/or WCP Coaches, 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 to compete due to veterinary reasons, 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 14.4.2 and 14.4.3.

## 15. General

15.1 Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation of the Championships, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation 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 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 Executive Officers of the BEF and BD, either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which may include withdrawing the British Team from competition.

15.3 Communication (publication): The Selection Policy will be published on the BEF and BD websites and copies will be available on request from the BEF/BD offices.

15.4 Enquiries: Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BEF/BD 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 specifically non-appealable as in 14.10. For the avoidance of doubt there is no right of appeal where the terms of this Policy state that the decision is not contestable and/or there is no right of appeal.

16.2 An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the CEO of the BEF, 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 CEO of BD. The CEO 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.

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 (1) 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](#).