

British Equestrian Dressage Senior Team Selection Policy
2026 World Championships
Aachen, GER, 11 – 23 August 2026

KEY DATES

Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) achievement period (https://inside.fei.org/system/files/QualCritDressage_all_2026.pdf)	1 January 2025 to 6 July 2026
Phase one selection (at Selectors' discretion)	On or around 20 April 2026
Register of Intent submission deadline	5 May 2026
Nominated entries selection meeting	On or around 22 June 2026
Definite entries selection meeting	On or around 15 July 2026

All dates in the Policy are subject to amendment following publication of the FEI schedule for the Championships.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The British Equestrian Dressage squad (the 'Squad') for the 2026 World Championships (the 'Championships') will be selected by the British Dressage 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 some or all of the objectives:

- To qualify a Team for the 2028 Olympic Games;
- To win a Team and/or Individual medal/s at the FEI 2026 World Dressage Championships;
- Combinations may be selected to provide necessary Championship experience to prepare and develop for future international success.

3 Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for selection athletes must have met, and continue to meet, the following:

- a. Achieve, as a combination, the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) set out on the [FEI website](#).
- b. Be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland holding a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Championships, and be in compliance with Art. 119 of the [FEI General Regulations 2026](#).
- c. Born on or before 31 December 2010 (sixteen years of age) in accordance with Art. 429.1 of the [FEI Dressage Rules 2026](#).
- d. The horse must be born on or before 31 December 2018 (eight years of age) in accordance with Art. 401.7 of the [FEI Dressage Rules 2026](#).
- e. Comply with FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on human anti-doping. Athletes must be eligible to compete under any and all anti-doping codes, 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.
- f. The athlete is a full (competing) member of British Dressage (BD) and is not serving any suspension under BD, BEF, or any other Member Body rules.
- g. Athletes and owners will be obliged to adhere to and to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#) and the [BD Members' Code of Conduct](#).
- h. The athlete holds a license granted by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with Art. 113 and 117 of the [FEI General Regulations 2026](#).
- i. The horse is fully registered with BD and the FEI for 2026 by the date of submission of the Definite Entries.
- j. Neither athlete nor horse may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Championships under BEF, FEI, or any BEF Member Body rules.
- k. 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.
- l. 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 veterinarian and the Team Vet to ensure that the selectors can make rational decisions and so that specific support can be instigated where required.

- m. An athlete must declare to the Chef d'Equipe (CdE) or World Class Programme (WCP) Chief Medical Officer (CMO) (or representative) 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.

4 Register of Intent (ROI)

- 4.1 To be considered for selection for the Championships, an athlete/horse combination must have registered their intent to compete (ROI) by 23:59hrs on 5 May 2026. 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.
- 4.2 Athletes must ensure that their horse's owners are informed of the ROI submission.
- 4.3 The PD reserves the right to add any athlete/horse combination to the ROI list at any time prior to the FEI Nominated Entries submission deadline.

5 Squad/team size

- 5.1 A Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which four (4) will compete in the Individual and Team Competitions.
- 5.2 The Selectors will also select a number of reserve combinations who must come from the Nominated Entry list. The exact number of reserve combinations will be decided in consultation with the CdE, PD and Team Vet. The Selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order.
- 5.2.1 For clarity, reserve combinations 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 required to travel with the Squad horses for substitution purposes.

6 Selection criteria

- 6.1 The Selectors will select combinations to form the Squad. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity. The criteria below are not listed in order of priority, may be given unequal weight and/or may be disregarded to best meet the objectives of the Policy.
- 6.2 The likely contribution of the combination to achieve the objectives set out in clause 2.
- 6.3 The athlete/horse combination's results.

When considering results, due regard will be given to the following:

- 6.3.1 Scores achieved at CDI/CDIO 5*, 4*, 3* and CDI-W competitions from 1 January 2026 up to and including the selection meeting dates (nominated and definite respectively) with the emphasis on Grand Prix, followed by Grand Prix Special and finally Grand Prix Freestyle. Scores will be obtained from the FEI website.
- 6.3.2 Scores achieved at CDI/CDIO 5*, 4*, 3* and CDI-W competitions from 1 January 2025 up to and including 31 December 2025 with the emphasis on Grand Prix, followed by Grand Prix Special and finally Grand Prix Freestyle. Scores will be obtained from the FEI website.

- 6.3.3 In FEI competitions where double bridles are optional, only scores and performances achieved while competing in a double bridle will count towards selection, unless a prior exemption has been granted by the Chief Selector through the CdE.
- 6.3.4 The experience and standing of the judges in relation to the FEI 2026 Dressage World Championships.
- 6.3.5 Performance at events that have, in the expert opinion of the selectors and CdE, field of play similarities to the Championships, including the quality and competitiveness of starters.
- 6.3.6 Consideration of the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions from 1 January 2025 due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement.
- 6.4 The commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Championships as defined by the CdE, Team Vet and WCP Chief Medical Officer (CMO) (or representative) according to their and their horse's specific requirements to produce optimal results in the 2026 FEI Dressage World Championships environment.
- 6.5 The fitness and soundness of the horse. All horses under consideration may be required to be examined by the Team Vet (or another appointed veterinarian if necessary). The selection process may include the taking of bloods for pre-Championship equine anti-doping and controlled medication testing, including Pre-Arrival Testing.
- 6.6 The fitness of the human athlete to compete to their full potential. The WCP CMO (or representative) may advise the Panel of an athlete's capacity to compete optimally from a medical perspective, while respecting athlete confidentiality.
- 6.7 The ability of the athlete and/or the people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, partners, coaches, connections and grooms) to have an impact on creating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- 6.8 Likelihood that the athlete and/or the people associated with the athlete will meet the standards and behaviours expected by the British Equestrian Federation, including but not limited to those outlined in the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#).
- 6.9 The ability to produce peak performances under pressure.
- 6.10 The owner(s) commitment to making their horse(s) available as reserve, both non-travelling and travelling for the Championships.
- 6.11 The Selectors, in collaboration with the CdE, may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, tests or competitions where they deem this appropriate and necessary prior to selection. The CdE will inform the athletes of the details regarding these requirements and participation will be compulsory.

7 Selection process

Phase One selection

- 7.1 The purpose of phase one selection is to enable identified athlete/horse combinations (only WCP A or B level athletes at the time of the meeting) to prepare optimally for the Championships.

- 7.2 The Selectors may choose to hold a phase one meeting on or around 20 April 2026, which may be held online or in person.
- 7.3 Athlete/horse combinations will only be selected at the phase one selection meeting if, in the expert opinion of the Panel, they have an exceptional chance of contributing to the Objectives of this policy, and should be directly selected onto the Squad, subject to meeting the requirements set out in clauses 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7.
- 7.4 Phase one selection is subject to following a performance plan as agreed with the CdE. The performance plan must be agreed and signed off by the PD within two weeks of the phase one meeting.
- 7.5 In order to confirm selection at the Definite Entries meeting, the performance plan must have been followed and all objectives achieved as determined by the CdE and PD. For clarity, selection via the phase one selection route places the combination onto the Squad only.
- 7.6 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 selection alongside all other athletes at the Definite Entries selection meeting.
- 7.7 Phase one selection is not open to appeal.

Nominated Entries selection

- 7.8 The Selectors will hold the Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around 22 June 2026.
- 7.9 The nominated entry list will comprise of up to two times the maximum number of definite entries. 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.
- 7.10 The Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI on the date of the Nominated Entries deadline of 6 July 2026.

Definite Entries selection

- 7.11 The selectors will hold the Definite Entries selection meeting on or around 15 July 2026.
- 7.12 At the Definite Entries selection meeting the Selectors will select, from the Nominated Entries list, the Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Championship. The selectors may also select several reserve athlete/horse combinations for the squad from the Nominated Entries list, which may or may not be in order of preference.
- 7.13 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 by the PD or CdE and are subject to the requirements of the Team Announcement.
- 7.14 The Definite Entries will be submitted to the FEI on the date of the Definite Entries deadline of 27 July 2026.

8 Selection Panel and attendees

8.1 The Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

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|---|--------------|
| • Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting) | Sarah Rowell |
| • Chief Selector (voting) | Judy Harvey |
| • Selector (voting) | Jenny Ward |
| • Selector (voting) | Anne Keen |

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

8.2 In the exceptional event that a selector is unable to attend on the agreed meeting date, at the discretion of the PD and the BD CEO the meeting may either be rescheduled or will continue with the remaining selectors in attendance. If the meeting continues with the remaining selectors, the missing selector's vote will transfer to either the PD or the CdE, as agreed by the PD and BD CEO.

8.3 The PD (or representative) will normally attend all selection meetings in person, but in exceptional circumstances may join the meetings remotely.

8.4 Non-voting panel members present at the selection meetings, as required:

- Darrell Scaife (Dressage CdE) (non-voting except in relation to clause 8.2 and 8.7)
- Dressage Team Veterinarian (Vet)
- WCP CMO (or representative)
- Data analysis expert
- BEF appointed minute taker

These individuals' opinions 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.

8.5 Observers who may attend the Selection Meeting, if required and as approved by the WCP PD:

- BEF CEO
- UK Sport Representative
- British Elite Athletes Association (BEAA) Representative
- BD CEO

If required, the intent is that these individuals will attend in person. In exceptional circumstances they may join the meeting remotely.

- 8.6 The Independent Chair of Selectors (Chair) will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The Chair will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Panel members will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict.
- 8.7 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 casting vote will transfer to either the PD or the CdE, as agreed by the PD and BD CEO.
- 8.8 The CdE will normally attend all selection meetings. They will not have a vote except as provided in clauses 8.2 and/or 8.7. They will provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of anticipated performance and risk factors.
- 8.9 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.
- 8.10 The WCP CMO (or representative) will attend the selection meeting, if required, with the sole purpose of providing information on an athlete's fitness and/or anticipated ability to complete the competition and manage the environment.
- 8.11 Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this Policy, having regard to the criteria set out in clause 6, to use their discretion to select athlete/horse combinations onto the Squad.

9 Withdrawal

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

10 Running Order

- 10.1 The CdE, in consultation with the Team Vet and PD, will decide the proposed running order in line with the requirements of the competition. If not already informed before travel, the CdE 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 running order decision will not be contestable; it will be final.
- 10.2 The CdE may subsequently make amendments to the running order at any time up to two (2) hours before the start of the competition, if it is deemed necessary to do so. This decision will not be contestable; it will be final.

11 De-selection

- 11.1 De-selection of a Squad member may occur at any time in line with the terms set out in clause 12 of this Policy. De-selection will normally only occur in exceptional circumstances such as injury or illness to an athlete or horse, or a performance issue that indicates a combination is unlikely to contribute to the objectives of the policy, or as detailed in clause 10.2 of this policy.

- 11.2 Between the conclusion of the Nominated Entries selection meeting and prior to departure to the Championships (as defined by the CdE), de-selection and replacement decisions, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Chief Selector in consultation with the CdE, PD, BD CEO, Team Vet and/or CMO (or representative), as appropriate.
- 11.3 Once departure to the Championships has commenced, if there is a need to de-select an athlete/horse combination from the squad or the Team for any reason, the decision will be made by the CdE, in consultation with the PD and Team Vet and/or CMO, as appropriate. This decision will not be contestable; it will be final.

12 Post Selection

- 12.1 Selected and reserve athletes must continue to meet all of the eligibility requirements detailed in this policy and adhere to all reasonable training, preparation, quarantine, media, and team meeting requirements. Failure to do so may result in the athlete/horse combination being de-selected.
- 12.2 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 BD and BEF CEOs, 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.
- 12.3 The Athlete will be notified of any review of their selection under clause 12.2 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 Chair. The outcome of this process shall be final and not open to appeal.
- 12.4 Any de-selection decision made within 72 hours prior to departure to the Championships will be deemed final and not open to appeal.
- 12.5 Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected, any de-selection decisions (as per clause 11) will normally be made based upon the following (note that the list is not exhaustive):
 - 12.5.1 Failure to maintain form and fitness of horse (as advised by a WCP veterinarian)
(For clarity, being unfit to compete is best described as 'not being able to compete to the performance standards anticipated).
 - 12.5.2 Failure to maintain form and fitness of athlete (as advised by the CMO or representative),
(For clarity, 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').
 - 12.5.3 Failure to meet eligibility requirements.
 - 12.5.4 Any behaviour which brings the reputation of the WCP, British Equestrian and/or BD into disrepute as deemed by the PD, BEF CEO and/or BD CEO.

13 Appeals process and procedures

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 Any appeal must be submitted within two working days of the athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.
- 13.3 The [Appeal Process](#) is set out on the BEF website.

14 General

- 14.1 The PD, in consultation with the BD CEO and CdE, reserves the right to amend this Policy at any time at their discretion and will make any amended version publicly available on the BD and BEF websites and make all reasonable efforts to inform athletes.
- 14.2 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 the selection process will be followed.
- 14.3 Force majeure: In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BEF or BD control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or the withdrawal of WCP 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.
- 14.4 Communication (publication): The Selection Policy will be placed on the BD and BEF websites and copies will be available on request from the BD and BEF offices.
- 14.5 Enquiries: Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BD and BEF offices.
- 14.6 Point of contact: The CdE is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

15 Policy formation

The British Equestrian Dressage Senior Team Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BD Board Directors, BEF Board Directors, Independent Chair of Selectors, BEF and BD CEOs, BD International Director, Selectors, athletes, PD and CdE.