

British Equestrian Eventing Selection Policy Paris 2024 Olympic Games

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Equestrian Eventing squad (the “Squad”) for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will be selected by the British Eventing Selection Panel (the “Selectors”), which is endorsed by British Equestrian (BEF), and nominated to the British Olympic Association (BOA) by the BEF for selection to Team GB.
- 1.2. References to selection for the 2024 Olympic Games (the “Games”) in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations that will be selected. References to the “Squad” in this Policy are to be construed accordingly. Additional ‘reserve’ combinations will also be referred to.
- 1.3. References to the “Squad” relate to the four (4) athlete/horse combinations who travel to the Games, of which three (3) will compete for the Team Competition as well as the Individual Competition at the Games and will be known as the “Team”. The fourth (4th) athlete/horse combination will be the reserve/substitute.

2. Objective

The objectives of this Selection Policy are to select athlete and horse combinations that will maximise the potential to:

- 2.1. Primary objective: Win the Team Gold at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- 2.2. Secondary objective: Win Individual medals at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

3. Confidentiality

- 3.1. It is vitally important 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 Olympic Squad Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting)	Graham McPherson
Selector (voting)	Nigel Taylor
Selector (voting)	Sarah Bullen
Selector (voting)	Mark Philips
- 4.2. Non-Voting Experts present at the Olympic selection meeting:
(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.

Performance Director, or their chosen representative
Eventing Performance Manager (PM) (non-voting except in relation to section 4.5)
Eventing High Performance Coach (HPC) (if required by the selectors)

Eventing Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet) (if required by the selectors)
World Class Programme Lead of Athlete Health (if required by the selectors)
Data Analysis Expert

Also present:

BEF Appointed Minute Taker

- 4.3. Observers who may attend the Olympic Selection Meeting, as approved by the WCP Performance Director. *The intent is that these individuals will normally attend in person, in exceptional circumstances they may join the meeting remotely.*

CEO of BEF

UK Sport Representative

BOA Representative

British Elite Athletes Association Representative

British Eventing CEO

- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. All Selectors, with the exception of the Chair, 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.
- 4.6. The Eventing High Performance Coach (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.
- 4.7. The Eventing Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet) will attend the selection meeting if required, as a non-voting expert, with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.
- 4.8. The Eventing Performance Manager (PM) will 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.
- 4.9. The PD, or their chosen representative, will attend all selection meetings and will be responsible for the final nominations by the BEF to the BOA.
- 4.10. 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 and 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.

- 4.11. 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 (physical or mental) and/or anticipated ability to complete the competition and manage the environment.

5. Policy formation

- 5.1. The British Equestrian Eventing Selection Policy for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games is compiled in consultation with the BOA, British Eventing (BE) CEO, British Equestrian Board Directors, Independent Chair of Selectors, BE International Director, Selectors, athletes, PD and PM.

6. Changes in policy

- 6.1. The Selectors 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) and the section revised will be published on the BE and BEF websites.

7. Minimum eligibility requirement and availability for consideration for selection

- 7.1. The BE International Co-ordinator 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 Paris 2024 Olympic Games ("the Games"). Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Games.
 - 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. 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 doping or controlled medication violation, or other breach of ethical conduct and is not in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport.
 - d. The athlete is a full and active member of BE.
 - e. The horse is fully registered with BE and the FEI for 2024.
 - f. Neither athletes or horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games under BEF, BOA, FEI, a BEF Member Body or IOC rules.
 - g. All athletes being considered for selection will be deemed to have accepted that they, their horses and support teams may be required to take part in pre-export quarantine if required.
 - h. 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.

- 7.2. In addition, as a condition of selection for the 2024 Games, an athlete/horse combination must meet the following criteria:
- a. All athlete and horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete at the Olympic Games before 23:59 hours on 7 May 2024 in order to be eligible to be considered for selection. The registration of intent form can be found [here](#). By signing the Register of Intent (ROI) the athlete confirms that they have read and agree to abide by the terms set out in this selection policy.
 - b. The Performance Director reserves the right to add any athlete/horse combination to the register of intent list at any time prior to the Nominations Selection meeting.
 - c. 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 a register of intent.
 - d. To be able to participate in the Games, all athletes/horses must achieve, as a combination, the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) set out in section C of the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) Qualification System – Games of the XXXIII Olympiad – Paris 2024 for Eventing, updated 13 August 2023. This document and the list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/paris-2024>.
 - e. The athlete must have been born on or before 31 December 2006 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25th Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Article 606.1.2).
 - f. The horse must be born on or before 31 December 2016 (eight years of age) (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25th Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, 25th Edition, Article 606.2.1).
 - g. Horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games must have been registered with the FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the athlete (GBR) by 15 January 2024 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25th Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Article 606.2.2.1). Horses with multinational ownership must be registered with the FEI by 15 January 2024 under the name of the nation for which the horse will compete during the Games (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25th Edition, Article 606.2.2.2).
 - h. No commercial prefix or suffix will be included with the name of a horse on any Olympic participation/entry list, start list or results. The FEI will reserve the right to amend any horse's name accordingly (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25th Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Article 606.2.5).
 - i. Athletes will be obliged to sign the BOA Team Member Agreement and to abide by the

the	British	Equestrian	Team	Charter
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 (<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/assets/About%20the%20BEF/Team%20charter.pdf>).

8. Qualification period

- 8.1. The qualification period for Teams and Individuals will be in accordance with the FEI qualification guidelines (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25th Edition, effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024), which are available at: [https://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI%20Olympic%20Regulations%20Paris%202024%20Equestrian Approved%20at%20FEI%20GA%202022 Clean 07June23.pdf](https://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI%20Olympic%20Regulations%20Paris%202024%20Equestrian%20Approved%20at%20FEI%20GA%202022%20Clean%2007June23.pdf)

9. Squad size

- 9.1. A Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which three (3) will make up the Team and will compete in the Team Competition and Individual Competition. The fourth Squad member will be the Team Reserve/Substitute. 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. A number of reserve horses may be expected to travel to the Paris region 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 of 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 the following (in no particular order):
 - results from 4*L/S and 5* events from January 2023 until the end of the Olympic Qualifying Period;
 - the standing of the judges and the competition;
 - the difficulty of the cross country and/or showjumping courses;
 - the cross country terrain;
 - the quantity and competitiveness of the starters;
 - the likely contribution of the combination to achieve the Objectives set out in clause 2;
 - the commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Games 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 Paris environment.
 - 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-Games 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 in Paris. 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 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 Paris 2024 Olympic Games, to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#) and the BOA Team Member Agreement.
- h. Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- 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 Olympic Games.

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 19 February 2024.
- 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 in February 2024. 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 Olympic Games. Phase one selection is entirely subject to agreeing, and following, a performance plan with the Performance Manager, High Performance Coach, and signed off by the Performance Director, 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.
- 11.3. The Selectors will hold the Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around the 15 of May 2024. The nominated entry list will comprise of twelve (12) athlete/horse combinations, to include three (3) reserve athlete/horse combinations. The Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability will be submitted to the FEI by 25 June 2024.

- 11.4. The Selectors will select the Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games (which may or may not be set out in order of preference of three (3) Team members and one (1) travelling reserve), plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or around 19 June 2024. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selectors reserve the right to nominate the four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Games on a 'no order' basis, which shall mean that – notwithstanding that one combination will necessarily need to be nominated as a reserve for sport entry purposes – the decision as to which three (3) athlete/horse combinations will actually be selected to compete may be deferred until arrival at the Olympic Games and up to two (2) hours before the start of the dressage phase, as set out in clause 12 below.
- 11.5. 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 BOA's ratification of their selection by the PD or PM and are subject to the requirements of a BOA Team Announcement.
- 11.6. The BOA in consultation with the PD will announce the Squad for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in June 2024, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 11.7. The three (3) athlete/horse combinations (and Reserve/Substitute) that will compete for the Team and Individual medals will be announced in line with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 25th Edition.
- 11.8. Key Dates (on or around):
- Phase one selection 19 February 2024
 - Nominated Entries selection meeting 15 May 2024
 - Definite Entries selection meeting 19 June 2024
 - MER Deadline 24 June 2024
 - Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability Deadline 25 June 2024
 - Final Sport Entries Deadline 8 July 2024

12. Post selection

12.1. Squad, Team and running order:

The PM, in consultation with the HPC, Team Vet and PD, will decide the three (3) 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. The PM may also subsequently make amendments to the Team 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 and will not be contestable, it will be final subject to being ratified and approved by the BOA and in accordance with the late athlete replacement policy.

13. De-selection

- 13.1. Between the announcement of the Squad and the date of Final Sport Entries on 8 July 2024, 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.
- 13.2. After the Final Sport Entries on 8 July 2024, and prior to departure to the Games, de-selection and replacement decisions for the Squad will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM and PD, this decision will be then ratified and approved by the BOA.

- 13.3. Once departure to the Games has commenced, all selection and de-selection decisions will be made in accordance with clause 12.1 of this policy.
- 13.4. 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 13.5 below). At all times such decisions will be in accordance with the IOC Late Athlete Replacement Policy (to be published).
- 13.5. 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, Athlete Agreement, BEF Rules, BE Code of Conduct and the BOA Team Members Agreement. Failure to do so may result in the athlete and horse combination being de-selected.
 - 13.5.1. 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 BE, BEF or any other statutory authority, the CEOs of BE and BEF along with the PD will consult with the BOA to 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.
 - 13.5.2. The Athlete will be notified of any review of their selection under section 13.5.1 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.
 - 13.5.3. 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.
- 13.6. 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.
- 13.7. At any time after announcement of the Squad, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, a recommendation will be made by the PM to the relevant decision-making body (Selectors or BOA) following an examination by a World Class Programme-approved Human 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”.
- 13.8. At any time after the announcement of the Squad, 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 relevant decision-making body (Selectors or BOA) following an examination by a World Class Programme approved veterinarian and in consultation with the PD.
- 13.9. 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 13.5.2 and 13.5.3.

14. General

- 14.1. Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, 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.
- 14.2. Force majeure: In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF, BE or BOA's 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, BOA 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.
- 14.3. 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.
- 14.4. Enquiries: Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BE/BEF 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 this Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach.
- 15.2. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the BEF in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the "Appeal 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 Officer of BE. The Chief Executive Officer of BE 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: [Annex H - 2 - BEF Olympic and Paralympic Games Selection Appeal Rules.pdf \(britishequestrian.org.uk\)](https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/annex-h-2-bef-olympic-and-paralympic-games-selection-appeal-rules.pdf)