

BRITISH EQUESTRIAN JUMPING SELECTION POLICY

FEI JUMPING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The British Equestrian Jumping squad (the “Team”) for the FEI European Jumping Championships 2021 will be selected by the Selection Panel (the “Selectors”), appointed by British Showjumping, endorsed by British Equestrian (BEF). The Team will then be entered and supported by the BEF through its World Class Programme (WCP).
- 1.2 References to the “Team” in this Policy refer to the four (4) athlete/horse combinations who will be selected to compete at the FEI European Jumping Championships 2021. Additionally, there will be one (1) travelling reserve athlete/horse combination (the “Travelling Reserve”).
- 1.3 The Selectors will also select up to three (3) additional Reserve combinations who will be placed in rank order and/or may be identified as specific replacements for named selected combinations on the Team of four (4).

2.0 Objectives

The objective of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential, in a non-qualifying year for the Olympic Games 2024, of utilising the option of providing Championship experience to potential combinations.

3.0 Selection Panel Confidentiality

- 3.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and process, and out of respect for the athletes, owners, grooms, 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.

4.0 Selection Panel and attendees

- 4.1 The EU-CH Jumping Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting)
Selector (voting), WCP Performance Manager (PM)

TBC
Di Lampard

Non-Voting Experts present at the EU-CH Jumping Championships Selection Meeting:
(The individual experts' opinion will be sought from the Selectors but will not have a vote at the point of selection. They may contribute to selection discussions when invited to do so).

WCP Team Vet for Jumping (non-voting) Robrecht Cnockaert
(or appointed representative)

WCP Athlete Health Lead (if required) (non-voting): Ashleigh Wallace (or appointed representative)

Performance Data Analyst (non-voting) Gordon Burton (or appointed representative)

Minute taker: (non-voting) BS to provide

Observers who may attend the Selection Meeting:

Performance Director (PD) (non-voting) Richard Waygood (or appointed representative)

BEF Chief Executive (non-voting) Jim Eyre (or appointed representative)

British Showjumping Chief Executive (non-voting) Iain Graham

UK Sport Representative (non-voting)

British Athletes' Commission Representative (non-voting)

- 4.2 The Chair of Selectors will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly and in accordance with the Selection Policy. The BS Performance Department will maintain a register of declared interests and all members of the Selection Panel will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise, in accordance with Section 14 of the Policy. If a member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, has a declared interest during selection, then they must step down from discussion involving the potential or perceived conflict. The register will be provided to the Chair of Selectors at all selection meetings.
- 4.3 The Team Vet will be a non-voting member of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.
- 4.4 The WCP Athlete Health Lead will attend the selection meeting if required and will, in any case, provide such information as necessary to enable Selectors to make a rational decision on an athlete's fitness and/or anticipated ability to complete the Jumping competition at the Games in its entirety.
- 4.5 A performance data analyst will attend the selection meeting with the sole purpose of providing performance data in relation to athlete/horse combinations.

4.6 The PD (or appointed representative) will attend the nomination meeting and final selection meeting and will be responsible for the final submission of athlete/horse combination names by the BEF to the FEI.

4.7 The Selection Panel will be provided, in advance, with relevant scores (obtained from the FEI website) and performance evidence to support them in their selection decisions. The information will be provided by the BS Performance Department and/or Performance Data Analyst and the BEF WCP team in consultation with, and ratified by, the WCP Head of Performance Support or designated other.

5.0 Policy formation

The British Equestrian Jumping Selection Policy for the FEI Jumping European Championships 2021 is compiled in consultation with the BS Performance Committee, Selectors, athletes, PD (or designated deputy) and PM.

6.0 Changes in Policy

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, including (but not limited to) as a result of COVID-19. This may include alternatives to the selection criteria (Section 9.3 and 9.4), as a necessary response to the impact of COVID-19 on the international competition calendar, including any travel restrictions, to enable the objectives of the Policy to be fulfilled. Any such alternatives would be communicated to the athletes at the earliest opportunity. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the PD (or appointed representative), BEF and BS CEO, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld by any party. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes and will be published on the BEF and BS websites within 48 hours of the amendment.

7.0 Eligibility

7.1 Minimum eligibility and availability requirements to be considered for selection:

- 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, 23rd Edition, Article 119 at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of the FEI European Jumping Championships 2021.
- b. Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire within six (6) months of the conclusion of the Games and complies with any current requirements for travel as an outcome of Brexit.
- c. 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, 23rd Edition, Articles 113 and 117.

- d. The athlete is eligible 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.
- e. The athlete is a full member of BS and is not serving any suspension under BS rules.
- f. The horse is fully registered with BS for 2021.
- g. Neither athletes nor horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the FEI European Jumping Championships 2021 under BEF or BS rules.
- h. All athletes being considered for selection, and subsequently named as Reserve/s to the Team, will be deemed to have accepted that they, their horses and support teams may be required to travel to the Championships.
- i. 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.

7.2 Participation:

- a. To be able to participate in the Championships all athletes/horses must achieve, as a combination, the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) (FEI Jumping Rules, 26th Edition, Annex VIII).
- b. To be eligible for participation in the Championships, athletes and horses must be compliant with all current and relevant FEI Regulations.

8.0 Qualification period

To be considered for selection athlete/horse combinations must comply with any FEI minimum eligibility requirements required and in accordance with FEI qualification guidelines, available at www.fei.org.

9.0 Selection process

9.1 Throughout the selection process the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled, within the boundaries of this Selection Policy and having regard to the criteria set out within the Selection Policy, to use their absolute discretion to select athlete and horse combinations onto either the Nominated Entry List and/or the Team in order to best achieve the objectives of the Selection Policy (See Section 2.0). They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with integrity, having regard to, and acting in compliance with, any applicable BEF and BS code of conduct or code of ethics in force from time to time.

9.2 Designated events

- a. The Selectors may, at any time during the selection period, request an athlete/horse

combination to compete in one or more specified competitions. If an athlete agrees to attend the competition but subsequently does not, without a veterinary/medical certificate, this will be the athlete's responsibility and may negatively impact on selection decisions. The PM will inform the athlete(s) concerned where this request is being made.

- b. The PD (or appointed representative), in collaboration with the Selectors, may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training or preparation days. The PM will inform the athlete(s) concerned of the details regarding these requirements. Participation will be compulsory, except under exceptional circumstances agreed in advance with the PM and PD.
- c. Athletes must make themselves available for discussions/meetings with the PM and PD (or appointed representative) if requested.

9.3 Nominations

The Selectors will meet on or around 28 July 2021 and, in consultation with the Selection Panel, will draw up a list of a maximum of ten (10) Athletes and twenty (20) Horses with its nominated entries, which will be submitted by the BEF to the FEI as the Nominated Entries by the Entry deadline of 2 August 2021.

9.4 Definite Entries

The Selectors will meet on or around 5 August and, in consultation with the Selection Panel, will evaluate the athlete/horse combinations submitted to the FEI as the Nominated Entries and from those will recommend to the BEF a maximum of four (4) athletes and eight (8) horses (the "Team") (see 1.3) to travel to the Championships plus one additional travelling reserve. The recommendations will be submitted by the BEF to the FEI as the Definite Entries by the Entry Deadline of 12 August 2021.

The following criteria may be considered when evaluating the athlete/horse combinations and making recommendations for the Definite Entries:

- The standing of the competition
- The difficulty of the surfaces and conditions
- The competitiveness of the field
- The rate of progression of the combination
- Double clear rounds in 2020 FEI 5* Nations Cup competitions & respective Grand Prix classes
- Double clear rounds will be advantaged in the counting Nations Cup competitions, and 5* Grand Prix classes will take priority over 4* Nations Cup competitions and respective Grand Prix classes.
- 5* CSI Grand Prix classes will take priority over 4* CSI and below
- The combination's likelihood to develop into a contributor to maximise the probability of the winning of medals/achieving the objectives set out in section 2.
- Riders results on other horses at 5* level.
- Proven ability to produce peak performances/double clear rounds on a given day and in conditions similar to the Championships.

Athletes should make themselves available for an FEI Nations Cup competition before Championship selection, however all combinations must prove their current form at 5* level competitions of similar difficulty.

9.5 Fitness and soundness of the Horse

- 9.5.1 Horses that are candidates for selection for the Championships may be examined for fitness/soundness at any time during the selection process, by the WCP Team Vet (or another appointed veterinary if necessary). In addition, horses may, more specifically, be inspected before the Nominations selection meeting and Definite entries selection meeting. Examination and inspections may include the taking of blood and/or other samples for pre-Championship testing.
- 9.5.2 Athletes are obliged to notify the WCP Team Vet of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate openness of communication between their own veterinary and the WCP Team Vet to ensure that selectors can make rational decisions and that specific support can be instigated where required.
- 9.5.3 Once a horse has been included in the Nominated Entries or the Definite Entries athletes are requested to ensure that the WCP Team Vet is informed of any changes/treatments taking place in the horse's veterinary plan before the announcement of the Squad and, if selected, before departure to the Games.

9.6 Fitness of the Athlete

- 9.6.1 Athletes that are candidates for selection for the Championship may be requested to take a pre-determined and relevant fitness test at any time during the selection process. The decision to request a fitness test will be at the discretion of the Selectors in consultation with the PD (or appointed representative). The test criteria will be determined by the WCP team, led by the PD (or appointed representative) with input from the WCP Senior Medical Officer and WCP Athlete Health Lead, and is available on request.
- 9.6.2 Athletes are obliged to notify the WCP Athlete Health Lead of any change in their health status or management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate openness of communication between their own medical/fitness team and the WCP Athlete Health Lead to ensure that selectors can make rational decisions and that specific support can be instigated where required.
- 9.6.3 Once an athlete has been included in the Nominated Entries or the Final Sport Entries, they are requested to ensure that the WCP Athlete Health Lead is informed if their health status in any way impacts upon their ability to compete to their full potential.

9.7 Maintaining form and fitness

Throughout the selection process selection decisions are subject to the athlete and horse maintaining fitness and performance up to the Championship date. The Performance Manager, in

consultation with the Selectors, reserves the right to deselect any horse/rider combination not maintaining the form and fitness at the point of selection.

9.8 Withdrawal from Selection Process

If an athlete decides at any time, and for whatever reason, that they wish to withdraw from the selection process, they are obliged to notify the PM immediately, and follow up in writing.

10.0 Selection timelines

10.1 The PM will inform all athletes being considered for selection of the decisions of Selectors by telephone or direct conversation within a maximum period of 24 hours of the selection decisions having been made.

10.2 The athletes and horses to be submitted as the Nominated Entries will be informed on or around 29 July. Athletes will be required to maintain confidentiality until official announcements have been made post the Nominated Entry deadline.

10.3 The athletes and horses to be submitted as the Final Sport Entries (the "Team") plus additional travelling reserve will be informed on or around 6 August. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until official announcements have been made post the Final Sport Entry deadline and they are formally notified by the PD/PM.

10.4 Official announcement of the athlete/horse combinations will be posted on the BEF and BS websites.

11.0 Post Selection

11.1 Team running order

11.1.1 Post the Team selection and prior to departure for the Championships, the PD (or appointed representative) and PM will discuss the proposed likely Team running order. The PM will inform athletes accordingly before departure for the Championships of the running order. Running order may be reviewed after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel, the weather and environmental conditions and the health of the athlete/horses to compete to their maximum potential.

12.0 Conditions of remaining selected

12.1 Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected at either the Nominated Entry or Final Sport Entry stage, they must maintain their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme as agreed with the PM and WCP Team Vet for Jumping. Failure to do so, or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM, may result in the athlete being de-selected.

12.2 It will be expected that selected and reserve athletes and their grooms adhere to all requested training preparation, quarantine, travel arrangements, media and team meeting arrangements. Training preparation will include optimal performance preparation for athletes, grooms and horses aligned to anticipated environmental conditions and competition format at the

Championships. Failure to do so may result in the athlete being de-selected.

13.0 De-selection

13.1 De-selection of a Team or Reserve member and/or horse may occur at any time between the announcement of the Team and/or Reserves, the date of the Definite Entries and the Championships date and in accordance with FEI Rules for Jumping Championships and Games 2021 available at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/jumping/rules> (see Article 304). The final decision as to whether to de-select during this period, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the PM and PD, in consultation with the Selectors (as circumstances allow), the WCP Team Vet or the WCP Athlete Health Lead (as appropriate). This decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity, it will be final and not subject to appeal.

13.2 If an athlete decides at any time, and for whatever reason, that they have to withdraw having been selected onto either the Nominated Entry list, the Definite Entry list and/or Reserve Team members, they are obliged to notify the PM immediately.

13.3 In the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, the decision will be made following an examination by a WCP approved human sport science and medicine (SSM) practitioner. This may involve the athlete being asked to 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 for the duration of the competition”.

13.4 In the case of a horse being considered unfit to compete, the decision will be made following an examination by the Team Vet or a WCP approved veterinarian. This may involve the athlete/horse combination being asked to jump selected fences. Being unfit to compete is best described as “not being able to produce the performance standard anticipated and at which they were selected for the duration of the competition”.

13.5 Substitution

13.5.1 The Substitution of an athlete/horse combination from the Nominated Entry list may occur at any time between the announcement of the Team and/or Reserves, the date the Definite Entries are submitted and the competition date as per FEI Rules for Jumping Championships and Games (See Article 304).

13.5.2 The final decision as to whether to replace/substitute during this period, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the PM and PD (or designated deputy), in consultation with the Selectors (as circumstances allow), the WCP Team Vet or the WCP Athlete Health Lead (as appropriate). This decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity, it will be final and not subject to appeal.

14.0 Conflict of interest

14.1 In order to protect the integrity of the selection process, members of the Selection Panel, both voting and non-voting, shall not take any measure nor exercise any influence in relation to a matter where any conflict of interest or any other conflict exists or is perceived to exist.

- 14.2 All members of the Selection Panel must therefore take all reasonable steps to avoid situations where there may be a potential conflict of interest, whether that is a real or perceived conflict of interest.
- 14.3 A Conflicts of Interest register will be maintained by the BS Performance Department and British Equestrian Federation. All Selectors, team officials and WCP personnel, whether contractors or staff, should declare any potential Conflict of Interest by 31st January 2021, so they can be managed appropriately.
- 14.4 If any member of the Selection Panel, team official or WCP personnel has a declared interest that could cause conflict during the selection process, then they must step down from any discussion involving the potential or perceived conflict.
- 14.5 It will be incumbent upon all individuals involved in the selection process to declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. The Chair of Selectors, will proactively manage any conflicts throughout the selection process to ensure that the integrity of selection decisions is maintained at all times.

15.0 Collective confidentiality

- 15.1 To protect the integrity of the Selection Policy and process, it is vitally important that all parties involved recognize that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to any information that may have a bearing on selection and/or selection decisions.

16.0 British Equestrian Charter/British Showjumping Code of Conduct

- 16.1 Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes' "home teams" should behave at all times in a manner that does not potentially negatively affect performance or bring into disrepute the sport, BEF, WCP or BS, and at all times behave in accordance with the British Equestrian Charter and the British Showjumping Code of Conduct (<https://www.britishshowjumping.co.uk/membership/Member-Handbook-And-Rule-Amendments>). Failure to do so may result in any selection decisions regarding an athlete being impacted negatively or if already selected could result in de-selection.

17.0 Clean Sport

Selection is subject to compliance with FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on anti-doping.

18.0 Cancellation/postponement

- 18.1 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 or different Team and/or Reserves need to be selected in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedures for selection followed wherever possible.
- 18.2 In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BEF or BS control the right is reserved to

make decisions following consultation with the PD (or appointed representative), Chief Executive of BEF and Chief Executive of BS, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include the withdrawing of the British Team from competition. (See also section 6.0).

19.0 Communication (Publication)

- 19.1 The Selection Policy will be published on the BEF and BS websites and copies will be available on request from the BS and BEF offices.
- 19.2 Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing (via e-mail) or by telephone to the BS and BEF offices.

20.0 Appeals Process and procedures

- 20.1 Athletes have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors, but only on the grounds that the Selectors have failed to comply with the Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach. The right to appeal a Selection Decision must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the Selector(s) where the selection procedure and selection criteria have been followed. In reaching their decision the Selector(s) are acting as experts.
- 20.2 An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Chief Executive of the BEF, in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the "Appeals Process"), within 24 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.
- 20.3 A copy of the appeal must also be submitted to the Chief Executive of BS. The Chief Executive of BS shall, on receipt of the notice of appeal, seek to bring together all parties for a without prejudice discussion.
- 20.4 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 24 hours of receipt of the notice of appeal) that such discussion has resolved the appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed.
- 20.5 Please note, one of the overriding objectives of the BEF Appeals Procedure is to enable the BEF to deal with selection appeals as quickly as is reasonably possible. Any Appeals Process will therefore be dealt with on an expedited basis with the aim being (to the extent possible) to complete the Appeals Process within five (5) to seven (7) days of the relevant selection decision.
- 20.6 The full details of the BEF Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website:
<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook>