

## **BRITISH EVENTING SELECTION POLICY**

### **FEI EVENTING CCIO4\*-S NATIONS CUP SERIES 2023**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The British Eventing Teams (the “Team”) for the 2023 CCIO4\*-S Nations Cup Series (the “Series”) will be selected by the Eventing Performance Manager (PM), Eventing High Performance Coach (HPC) and Nations Cup Manager (NCM). Aachen is not included in the Nations Cup Series, therefore the Senior Selectors appointed by British Equestrian (BEF), in collaboration with British Eventing (BE), will select for Aachen. Entries will be made through the British Eventing International Secretary.
- 1.2. References to the “Team” refer to the three or four (3/4) athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team at CCIO4\*-NC and may include a travelling Reserve.

#### **2. OBJECTIVE**

The objectives of the Selection Policy are:

- 2.1. Primary Objective. Development & Experience:
  - 2.1.1. To raise the standard of those riders just below the Senior Championship Team and younger riders, particularly those on the BEF World Class Programme (WCP).
  - 2.1.2. To use the Series to give riders who do not have experience of working within a senior team environment. When possible and if available, former Senior Team riders may be selected to act as mentors for those less experienced.
- 2.2. Secondary Objective. To field a Team at each leg entered within the Series that achieves the best possible results for Great Britain. The PM and Nations Cup Manager (NCM) will discuss short and long term aims with athletes.

#### **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. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection process. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

#### **4. SELECTION PANEL**

- 4.1. The Selectors are appointed according to their role within the BEF World Class Programme

- 4.2. The PM will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. If a Selector has a conflict of interest during selection, then they must step down from discussion involving the conflict.
- 4.3. All Selectors will have equal voting rights in selecting the Teams. 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). If this is the case, the PM will have the casting vote unless they have had to abstain, in which case the HPC will have the casting vote.
- 4.4. The Nations Cup Selection Panel shall comprise of:
- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Performance Manager (PM):     | Richard Waygood    |
| High Performance Coach (HPC): | Christopher Bartle |
| Nations Cup Manager (NCM):    | Philip Surl        |
- 4.5. The NCM will be appointed by the Performance Director (PD) in agreement with the PM.
- 4.6. Others from the World Class Programme who may be asked their professional opinion as required include:
- World Class Programme Eventing Team Vet (non-voting)  
World Class Programme Chief Medical Officer (non-voting)  
World Class Programme Lead of Athlete Health (non-voting)
- 4.7. The PD and CEO BE also have the right to attend all selection meetings, but will not have a vote.

## **5. POLICY FORMATION**

- 5.1. The British Equestrian and British Eventing Selection Policy for the Nations Cup Series is compiled in consultation with the BE Board of Directors, PD, PM, HPC, NCM and athletes.

## **6. CHANGES IN POLICY**

- 6.1. The Selectors will have the right in exceptional circumstances (e.g. force majeure) 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 PD and the PM. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors), the PD and PM by email and the section revised will be published on the BE/BEF websites.

## **7. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT & AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION**

- 7.1. The BE International Secretary will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain, including:
- a. The athlete must be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in compliance with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) General

Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 119 at the time of application. Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the CICO4\*.

- 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, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
- c. The athlete is eligible 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 British Eventing (BE) and not serving any suspensions under BE rules.
- e. The horse is fully registered with BE and the FEI for 2021.
- f. 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.
- g. Must be eligible according to the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI Regulations for the forthcoming CICO4\* and that the horse/s available for selection have correct ownership. Neither horse nor athlete are for any reason not allowed to take part in the forthcoming Nations Cup under BE, BEF or FEI rules.

7.2. In addition, as a condition of selection for a Nations Cup Team:

- a. 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 BE, and at all times behave in accordance with the British Equestrian Charter and the BE Code of Conduct. 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.

## **8. QUALIFICATION PERIOD**

- 8.1. The qualification period for horses and athletes will be in accordance with FEI regulations, which are available at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## **9. TEAM SIZE**

- 9.1. A Team will consist of three or four (3/4) athlete/horse combinations who will compete for the Team and individual prizes.

## **10. SELECTION CRITERIA**

10.1. The Selectors will take in to account the criteria set out below to use their absolute discretion to select combinations onto the Team. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.

10.1.1. The athletes' team experience and perceived likelihood of being selected for the Senior Team in the future.

10.1.2. The athlete/horse combination's results. Due regard will be given when considering results to

- a. past and present results from 4\* and 5\* events, including CCI-L and CCI-S level, and advanced national competitions
- b. the status of the judges and the competition
- c. the difficulty of the cross-country and jumping courses
- d. the terrain
- e. the competitiveness of the starters
- f. the rate of progress of the combination

10.1.3. Fitness and soundness of the horse – the advice of the World Class Programme Eventing Team Vet or another appointed veterinary surgeon may be sought. Athletes should notify the Eventing Team Vet of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately.

10.1.4. Fitness of the athlete – the advice of the World Class Programme Chief Medical Officer or Lead Of Athlete Health may be sought.

10.1.5. Willingness of the athlete or his/her accredited owners, coaches, SSM staff, grooms or others that may be assisting the athlete during the Nations Cup, to contribute to the Objectives of the Selection Policy and the World Class and Team Charter.

10.1.6. Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.

10.1.7. Athlete's results on other horses at 3\*, 4\* or 5\* level

## **11. SELECTION PROCESS**

11.1. The Selectors will hold selection meetings frequently enough to allow riders enough notification for each leg in the series. In some circumstances, the Team announcement may not take place until after the First Veterinary Inspection (Horse Inspection) at a Nations Cup.

11.2. If requested, the PM will be briefed by the World Class Programme Chief Medical Officer or Lead of Athlete Health and Eventing Team Vet as to an athlete's or horse's fitness for selection. This information will be delivered in summary format and not include the confidential detail.

11.3. VETERINARY

As part of the selection process, the advice from the World Class Programme Eventing Team Vet, and other World Class veterinary surgeons if so required, will be taken into consideration. There may be an official inspection which all horses must attend and where a blood test may be taken for pre Nations Cup testing and any samples taken may be screened for prohibited substances. Alternatively, the official inspections may take place at athletes' yards or at a competition. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the Eventing Team Vet.

#### 11.4. ATHLETE FITNESS

Fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential will be taken in to consideration by the NCM when selecting the Team and Reserves. Athletes may be asked to undergo a fitness assessment by the World Class Programme Lead of Athlete Health.

#### 11.5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SQUAD FOR THE CCIO4\*-S NATIONS CUP SERIES AND FOR EACH COMPETITION

- 11.5.1. The Selectors will select the Team in a timely manner to allow a media announcement to be made. The NCM will inform the BE and BEF Media Team of impending announcements.
- 11.5.2. Once the Selectors have made their decision, it is the PM/NCM's responsibility to inform athletes their horses have been selected.
- 11.5.3. The NCM will agree a programme for when each Team will be selected. The NCM is responsible for informing athletes whether they have been selected for a Team.

### 12. POST SELECTION

#### 12.1. RUNNING ORDER

The NCM, in consultation with the PM, will decide the Team running order. The NCM will inform athletes. The NCM may make amendments to the Team running order in consultation with the PM (if available) and if deemed necessary to do so.

#### 12.2. MAINTAINING FORM

Athletes should note that Selection decisions are subject to the athlete/horse retaining fitness/performance requirements (see Substitution below). 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 NCM. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss amendments to the programme with the NCM could lead to the athlete/horse combination being substituted out of a.

#### 12.3. SUBSTITUTION (TEAM)

Substitution of a Team member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Team and the declaration of the Team as stated in each Schedule. The final decision on whether to substitute, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the NCM in consultation with the PM and HPC. If he deems it appropriate or necessary to do so for any reason that may impact on the Objectives of the Policy. This is a condition of selection by the athletes and owners, this decision will be final and non-contestable.

However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either the relevant athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness, or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution, or the performance of the athlete/horse combination has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team to meet the Objectives of the Policy a substitution is vital.

In the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, the decision will be made by the NCM and PM following an examination by a World Class Programme-approved doctor; this may involve the athlete being asked to ride certain dressage movements or jump selected fences on their Team 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”.

In the case of a horse being considered unfit due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, this decision will be made by the NCM and PM following an examination by the World Class Programme-approved veterinarian and in consultation with the Chairman of Selectors (if available)

### **13. GENERAL**

#### **13.1. DISCRETION**

In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors and NCM will be entitled within the provisions of this Policy to exercise their discretion to achieve the objective where it is reasonable to do so.

#### **13.2. CODE OF CONDUCT/ CHARTER**

13.2.1. Athletes, owners, grooms, coaches, SSM staff, “home teams” or other connections are expected to follow the principles of the World Class Programme and Team Charter. Willingness of athletes or his/her owners, coaches, SSM staff, grooms or others connections that may be assisting the athlete during a Nations Cup, to contribute to the Objectives of the Selection Policy and the World Class Programme and Team Charter.

13.2.2. Athletes, owners, grooms, and their support teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, BEF, the World Class Programme or BE in to disrepute.

#### **13.3. CLEAN SPORT**

Selection is subject to compliance with BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules (“BEFAR”), FEI and WADA Rules on doping and medication control for Human and Equine.

#### **13.4. WEATHER**

The weather conditions likely at the competitions will have been considered in selection. However, should there be drastic change for some reason there might be cause for alterations to be made to the Team and/or the Team running order, in which case everyone concerned will be notified and the explanation given as soon as practicable.

#### **13.5. CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT**

In the event of cancellation, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation might arise where a new and/or different team or individuals need to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

#### 13.6. FORCE MAJEURE

In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF's or BE's control such as disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, reduction of World Class Programme funding, the British Eventing Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD and Chief Executive of the BEF, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from the Series.

### 14. COMMUNICATION

#### 14.1. PUBLICATION/CIRCULATION

The Selection Policy will be placed on the BE Website and copies will be available on request from the BE office.

#### 14.2. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BE office or the NCM.

#### 14.3. POINTS OF CONTACT

The NCM 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. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to both the Chief Executive Officer of BE and to the BEF in accordance with the BEF Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process") within 24 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.

The BEF Appeal Process is available to view here: [www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook](http://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook). Copies can also be obtained from the BEF office.

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 a facilitated mediation. 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 that such discussion/mediation has resolved the appeal within 24 hours of receipt of the notice of appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed.