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**SELECTION POLICY FOR PARA-EQUESTRIAN
DRESSAGE
2017 European Championships
Gothenburg, Sweden**



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The British Equestrian Para-Equestrian Dressage Squad (the “Squad”) for the 2017 European Championships will be selected by the British Dressage (BD) Para-Equestrian Dressage Selectors (the “Selectors”) and entered through the British Equestrian Federation (BEF).

1.2 References to selection for the 2017 European Championships in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of five (5) athlete/horse combinations that will be recommended to BD for formal selection and references to the “Squad” in this Policy are to be construed accordingly.

1.3 References to the “Team” refer to the four (4) athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the team and individual medals at the 2017 European Championships.

1.4 References to the “Individual” refer to the fifth athlete/horse combination that will compete only for the individual medals.

1.5 The Team consists of four (4) athletes and four (4) horses. One (1) team member must be classified in either Grade 1, 2, or 3. A Team may not include more than two (2) athletes from any single grade. In a Team comprised of four (4) athletes, the three (3) best total scores will count for the team result.

1.6 The Selectors will seek to achieve a balance between the stated objectives of this Policy.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SELECTION POLICY

2.1 The specific aims of the Selection Policy are:

2.1.1 To select athlete/horse combinations that will deliver the best possible results for Great Britain at the 2017 European Championships in the equestrian discipline of para-equestrian dressage. For the avoidance of doubt, the best result refers primarily to the number of gold then silver then bronze medals.

2.1.2 To select athlete/horse combinations in order to develop capability of winning medals at future championships.

2.1.3 To optimise the individual world ranking of GBR riders to support Paralympic Games qualification.

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 person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the selection process.

4. SELECTION PANEL

4.1 All Selectors (including the Chairman of Selectors) will be nominated by the BD Board in consultation with the World Class Performance Director (PD) and PM. The Chairman of Selectors and Selectors as a panel will have the knowledge and experience required to select championship teams and will be free from all vested interests/conflicts of interest in so far as possible. The term "Selectors" throughout this document refers to the Chairman of Selectors and the appointed Selectors.

4.2 The Chairman of Selectors will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise.

4.3 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. The Selectors will follow the BD Terms of Reference for Selectors.

4.4 The selection panel will comprise:
Chairman of Selectors: Carolyn Gardiner
Selector: Waveney Luke
Selector: Joyce Head

4.5 The PM will attend all selection meetings but will not have a vote.

4.6 The PD and a representative of the British Paralympic Association (BPA) and UK Sport will be entitled to attend selection meetings but will not have a vote.

5. POLICY FORMATION

5.1 The Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BD Board of Directors, Selectors, PD and athletes.

6. ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION

6.1 The BD International Secretary will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain, including being:

6.1.1 A British passport holder;

6.1.2 Born in or before 2001;

6.1.3 A member of BD in good standing and eligible to represent Great Britain in international championships under the rules of the FEI, having been registered by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international event in accordance with Article 117 of the FEI General Regulations;

6.1.4 In possession of a Certificate of Capability

6.1.5 Eligible under any applicable anti-doping code and/or controlled medication regulations.

6.2 In addition, as a condition of selection for the 2017 European Championships an athlete:

6.2.1 Must hold a current international classification card.

6.2.2 Must agree to abide by the BEF World Class and Team Charter.

7. QUALIFICATION PERIOD

7.1 The qualification period for athletes and horses will be in accordance with Para Dressage FEI regulations, which are available at www.fei.org.

8. SQUAD SIZE

8.1 A squad of five (5) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which four (4) will make up the Team and will compete for the team medals. The Squad athlete who is not in the Team will compete alongside the Team members for the individual medals.

8.2 The Selectors will also select a number (the exact number will be decided in consultation with the PM) of reserves. The Selectors may or may not prioritise the list of reserves.

9. SELECTION CRITERIA

9.1 Competition Attendance

To be considered for selection for the 2017 European Championships, the Selectors expect athlete/horse combinations to:

9.1.1 Qualify for the BD Open Winter Championships at Vale View on 18 - 19 March 2017. Athletes should refer to the BD rulebook/website for details of the competition dates and points-based qualification process.

9.1.2 Qualify for (in line with the BD Rules for this competition) and compete at the Gold Semi-Finals at Wellington Riding on 7 June 2017. Athletes should refer to the BD rulebook/website for details of the competition dates and points-based qualification process.

9.1.3 Compete at the CPEDI3* at Hartpury from 5 - 9 July 2017.

9.2 In addition to the above requirements, the following will apply:

9.1.4 A number of athletes will be invited by the Selectors to compete at CPEDI3* competitions abroad in 2017.

9.1.5 The Selectors reserve the right to give dispensation not to compete in one or more of the competitions in 9.1.1, 9.1.2 and 9.1.3 above to athlete/horse combinations on an individual basis if such a decision contributes to the Objectives of this Selection Policy.

9.3 Additional Selection Criteria

9.3.1 The athlete/horse combination's results will be the prime indicator in selection.

9.3.2 Selectors will also take the following criteria into account in making their selection decisions and one or more of these criteria may, at the Selectors discretion, outweigh the athlete/horse combination's results indicator:

9.3.2.1 Consistency of 70+% scores in CPEDI3* and BD Championships and consistency of 72+% scores in National Para-Equestrian Dressage qualifying competitions.

9.3.2.2 Weighting will be given to the standing of the judges and shows and competitiveness of the starters.

9.3.2.3 Fitness and soundness of the horse. The professional opinion of the World Class Programme Para-Equestrian Dressage veterinary surgeon or another appointed veterinary surgeon will be sought. Athletes must notify the World Class Programme Para-Equestrian Dressage veterinary surgeon of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately.

9.3.2.4 Fitness of the athlete. The professional opinion of the World Class Programme Lead of Human Sports Science and Medicine (SSM) or other human SSM staff will be sought.

9.3.2.5 Willingness of the athlete or their owners, coaches, SSM staff, grooms or others that may be assisting the athlete to contribute to the Objectives of the Selection Policy and the World Class Programme (WCP) Charter to work with, and take advice from, WCP performance staff.

9.3.2.6 Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the European Championships.

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

9.3.2.8 In order to achieve the Objectives of the Policy the identification and composition of teams from other competing Nations may be taken into account.

10. SELECTION PROCESS

10.1 Selection Meeting

10.1.1 The Selectors will meet in order to select the Squad and reserves as required. The Selectors will be briefed by the World Class Programme Human and Equine Sports Science and Medicine (SSM) staff as to an athlete's or horse's fitness for selection. This information will be coordinated by the PM, will be delivered in summary format and will not include the confidential detail.

10.2 Veterinary

10.2.1 As part of the selection process the professional opinion of the World Class Programme Para-Equestrian Dressage veterinary surgeon and other World Class Programme 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. Alternatively, the official inspections may take place at athletes' yards or at a competition. If a horse is based abroad then an inspection will be arranged by the World Class Programme Para-Equestrian Dressage veterinary surgeon. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the World Class Programme Para-Equestrian Dressage veterinary surgeon.

10.2.2 All horses must have a valid and up to date FEI Passport with vaccinations recorded according to FEI Regulations.

10.3 Athlete Fitness

10.3.1 Fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential may be taken into consideration by the Selectors when selecting the Squad, Team and reserves.

10.4 Announcement of the Squad for the 2017 European Championships

10.4.1 The Squad for the 2017 European Championships will be selected on or about 13 July 2017. Reserves for the Squad may be announced at the same time.

10.4.2 Once the Selectors have made their decision, the PM will inform athletes and owners of the decisions of the Selectors.

10.4.3 Non-travelling reserves may be announced at the same time and the Selectors reserve the right to request that these reserves compete at competitions after the date of selection.

10.4.4 The Team will be announced in accordance with the 2017 Para Dressage FEI regulations.

11. POST SELECTION

11.1 Maintaining Form

11.1.1 Selection decisions are subject to the athlete/horse combinations maintaining fitness/performance (see 11.2 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 PM. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss amendments to this programme with the PM could lead to the athlete/horse combination being substituted.

11.2 Substitution

11.2.1 The Selectors may substitute a reserve athlete for a Squad member between the announcement of the Squad (on or about 13 July) and the date of Definite Entries. After Definite Entries, substitutions may be allowed with the permission of the Organising Committee. The cut-off date for substitutions will be announced by the Organising Committee but at the latest will be the day of the first Horse Inspection. The reason for a substitution will be because the athlete is medically unable to compete or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution if the performance of the Squad member's horse has deteriorated to such an extent that for the success of the Squad a substitution is vital.

11.2.2 In the case of an athlete being considered medically unable to compete, the decision will be made by the PD following an examination by a World Class Programme approved doctor and in consultation with the PM and Chairman of Selectors (if available). This may involve the athlete being asked to ride certain dressage movements 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".

11.2.3 In the case of a horse being considered unable due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard expected, this decision will be made by the PD following an examination by the World Class Programme approved veterinarian and in consultation with the PM and the Chairman of Selectors (if available). The veterinarian(s) will then advise the Selectors, PD, PM and National Coach of the fitness of the horse to compete without imparting confidential information (unless the athlete approves the release of such information).

11.2.4 Reserves will be listed as athlete/horse combinations.

12. GENERAL

12.1 Discretion

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

12.1.2 The Selectors will be deemed to act as experts throughout and are entitled within the provisions of this Selection Policy to use their discretion to select combinations onto the Squad or Team or as individuals provided that they can demonstrate that any decisions used were arrived at through a process of integrity where the information used and procedures taken were perfectly reasonable and justifiable.

12.2 Changes in Policy

12.2.1 The Selectors will have the right in exceptional circumstances (e.g. force majeure) to amend or change the Selection Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Selection Policy. Any changes to the Selection Policy must be approved in writing by the Chairman of Selectors and the PD. The amended Selection Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors), the PD and PM by email and the revised section will be published on the BD website.

12.3 Withdrawals

12.3.1 Once an athlete has committed to compete at an international show (verbally or in writing or by email to the Selectors or to the BD International Secretary) they are expected to make every effort to participate. After Definite Entries a veterinary and/or medical certificates will be required before a withdrawal will be accepted.

12.4 Code of Conduct/Charter

12.4.1. Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes' "home teams" are expected to follow the principles of the World Class and Team Charter.

12.4.2 Athletes and their support teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, Team GBR, BEF, the World Class Programme or BD into disrepute.

12.5 Clean Sport

12.5.1 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.

12.6 Weather

The weather conditions likely at the European Championships will have been considered as part of the selection process.

12.7 Cancellation / Postponement

12.7.1 In the event of cancellation the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement a situation may arise where a new and/or different Team or Individual needs to be selected in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

12.8 Force Majeure

12.8.1 In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BD's control (e.g. disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or loss of World Class funding) the BD Board reserves the right to make the decision either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team or individuals from competition. This decision will be made in consultation with the Chief Executive of the BEF, PD and PM.

13. COMMUNICATION

13.1 Publication / Circulation

13.1.1 The Selection Policy will be published on the BD website. Copies will be available on request from the BD office.

13.2 Enquiries

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

13.3 Points of Contact

13.3.1 The key points of contact relating to this Selection Policy are the Chairman of Selectors, PM and BD International Secretary.

13.3.2 The point of contact for athletes who wish to discuss their intended competition plans will be the PM and Para-Equestrian Dressage Discipline Coordinator.

14. APPEALS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

14.1 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 of BD and to the Chief Executive of the BEF in accordance with the BEF Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process") within 48 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.

14.2 The Chief Executive of BD shall, on receipt of the notice of appeal, seek to bring together all parties for a without prejudice discussion that may, if all are agreed, take the form of facilitated mediation. 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 48 hours of receipt of the notice of appeal) the Appeal Process shall be stayed. The Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website and copies can be obtained from the BEF office.