



## British Eventing Selection Policy for the Senior European Championships 2017

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The British Equestrian Eventing Squad (the “Squad”) for the 2017 Strzegom European Championships (the “Championships”) will be selected by the British Eventing Selectors (the “Selectors”) and entered through the British Equestrian Federation.

1.2 References to selection for the Championships in this Policy refers to selection of a Squad of 6 athlete/horse combinations that will be selected and references to the “Squad” in this Policy are to be construed accordingly.

1.3 References to the “Team” refers to the 4 athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team and Individual medals at the Championships;

1.4 References to the “Individuals” refers to the remaining 2 athlete / horse combinations that will compete only for the Individual medals.

### **2. OBJECTIVE**

2.1 The objectives of this Selection Policy are:

2.1.1 Primary objective: To win the team gold medal.

2.1.2 Secondary objective: To win as many individual medals as possible, whilst prioritising the primary objective.

2.1.3 Additional objective: To use the available individual places to give potential World Championship and/or Olympic Games combinations Championship experience.

### **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**

4.1 The non-voting Chairman of Selectors plus three (3) voting Selectors will be nominated by the British Eventing (BE) International Directors and ratified by the BE Board in consultation with the World Class Performance Director (PD) and Performance Manager (PM). The voting Selectors 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 is possible. The term "Selectors" throughout this document refers to the Chairman of Selectors and the appointed Selectors.

4.2 The Chairman of Selectors will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The Chairman 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 voting Selector has a conflict of interest during selection, then the selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict.

4.3 All Selectors, with the exception of the Chairman, 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 a Selector is required to abstain, the PM will have the casting vote in the event of a disagreement between the 2 voting Selectors.

4.4 The Championship Team Selection Panel shall comprise:

Chairman of Selectors (non-voting) – TBC – Dan Hunt  
Selector (voting) – British Eventing International Director – Nigel Taylor  
Selector (voting) – Jeanette Brakewill  
Selector (voting) – Sarah Bullen  
Selector (voting) – Gill Watson

4.5 The **PC** will be a non-voting member of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of providing relevant facts, including but not limited to assessment of anticipated performance, subjective assessment of risk factors, recommendations regarding final preparation/training for each candidate.

4.6 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.

4.7 The PM will attend all selection meetings. He will not have a vote except as provided in Article 4.3.

4.8 The PD and representatives of the BOA and UK Sport will have the right to attend all selection meetings but will not have a vote.

#### **5. POLICY FORMATION**

5.1 The British Eventing Selection Policy for the Championships is compiled in consultation with the BE International Directors, Selectors, athletes, PD, PC and PM.

#### **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 Chairman of Selectors and the PM. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors), the PD and BE International Directors by email and the section revised will be published on the BE website.

## **7. ELIGIBILITY / AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION**

7.1 The PM in collaboration with BE will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including:

- That the athlete holds a British passport;
- That the athlete has been granted a license by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with Article 117 of the FEI General Regulations;
- That the athlete/horse combination is qualified for the forthcoming Championships;
- That the horses available for selection have correct ownership; and
- That neither horses nor athletes are, for any reason, not allowed to take part in the forthcoming Championship under BE, BEF, FEI or BOA rules.

7.2 In addition, as a condition of selection for the Championships, an athlete:

- Must be eligible according to the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI Eventing Regulations;
- Will be obliged to abide by the BEF World Class and Team Charter.

## **8. QUALIFICATION PERIOD**

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

## **9. SQUAD SIZE**

9.1 A squad of up to a maximum of 6 athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which four will make up the Team and will compete for the team medals. The Squad athletes who are not in the Team will compete, alongside the Team members, for the individual medals.

9.2 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.

## **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.

10.1.1 The athlete/horse combination's results. Except in exceptional circumstances this criteria will carry greater weight than any other single selection criteria. Due regard will be given, when considering results, to:

- past and present results from 3\* and 4\* events, including CCI, CIC\*\*\*, CICO\*\*\*
- the standing of the judges and the competition
- the difficulty of the cross country/showjumping courses
- the terrain
- the quantity and competitiveness of the starters
- the form and results of horse/rider combinations from relevant dressage competitions and showjumping competitions
- the combination's likelihood to develop into a contributor to maximize the winning of medals

10.1.1.1 Although the results in all three phases will usually be given greatest weight, the Selectors reserve the right to select an athlete/horse combination with an outstanding talent or record in one of the three eventing phases if it is in the interests of the Objectives of the Selection Policy.

10.1.2 Fitness and soundness of the horse. The professional opinion of the World Class Programme veterinary surgeon or another appointed veterinary surgeon will be sought. Athletes are obliged to notify the World Class Programme veterinary surgeon 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 World Class Programme veterinary surgeon.

10.1.3 Fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential.

10.1.4 Willingness of the athlete and his/her owners, coaches, SSM staff, grooms and others that may be assisting the athlete during the Championships, to contribute to the Objectives of the Selection Policy, and adhere to the World Class and Team Charter.

10.1.5 Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Championships.

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 The Selectors, in collaboration with the PM and PC, 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.

## **11. SELECTION PROCESS**

11.1.1 The Selectors will announce a long list of up to 12 athlete/horse combinations on or around the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017. These athlete/horse combinations that will be entered as the Nominated Entries.

11.1.2 The Selectors will select the Squad of 6 athlete/horse combinations to compete at the 2017 European Championships in Strzegom, plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or around the 23rd July 2017 subject to receiving the FEI official schedule.

11.1.3 The Chairman of Selector's will inform athletes and owners of the decisions of the Selectors.

11.1.4 The PM, in consultation with the BEF and BE, will announce the Squad for the 2017 European Championships in Strzegom on or around the 23rd July 2017, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

11.1.5 The four athletes that will compete for the Team medals will be announced in line with 2017 FEI Eventing regulations.

## **12. POST SELECTION**

### **12.1 RUNNING ORDER**

The PM and PC will jointly decide the Team running order. The PM and PC will inform athletes accordingly on arrival at the Championship venue, after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel and the ground/weather conditions. The PM may make amendments to the Team running order if deemed necessary to do so after the first Horse Inspection. The PM and PC will decide the four Team Members and two Individuals along with the running order at the last squad training or prior to departure.

### **12.2 MAINTAINING FORM**

Selection decisions are subject to the athlete and horse maintaining 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. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss amendments to the programme with the PM could lead to the athlete/horse combination being substituted.

### 12.3 SUBSTITUTION

Substitution of a Squad member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Squad and departure to the Championship. The final decision as to whether to substitute, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, PC and Team Vet.

12.3.1 After announcement of the Squad, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unable to compete, the decision will be made by the PM and PC 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 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".

12.3.2 In the case of a horse being considered unable, due to veterinary reasons, to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, the decision will be made by the PM and PC following an examination by the World Class Programme approved veterinarian and in consultation with the PD

## **13. GENERAL**

### 13.1 DISCRETION

In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors 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 and athletes' "home teams" are expected to follow the principles of the World Class and Team Charter.

13.2.2 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 BE into disrepute.

### 13.3 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 human anti-doping.

### 13.4 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 Squad needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

### 13.5 FORCE MAJEURE

In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or BE's control, e.g. disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, collapse of World Class 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 competition.

## **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 PM.

### 14.3 POINTS 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. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to both the Chief Executive of BE 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.

The Chief Executive 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.

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 of the Appeal Rules can be obtained from the BEF office.