



HORSE SPORT IRELAND  
ATHLETE SELECTION POLICY – DRESSAGE  
2016 OLYMPIC GAMES, RIO, BRAZIL 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016

## SECTION I TIMELINES

- 1.1 The FEI will inform National Federations after 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 of the number of individual places secured. Eligible NF's must inform the FEI in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 whether or not they intend to participate at the Olympic Games. By 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 the FEI will reallocate all available places not accepted by eligible nations.
- 1.2 The Horse Sport Ireland Olympic selection process timelines are as follows:
- **Week Commencing 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**, the Dressage High Performance Committee selects the combination (s) and reserve (s) that will be recommended to the Olympic Council of Ireland to represent Ireland at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. The Dressage High Performance Committee will contact athletes by telephone call, thereafter a formal letter will issue.
  - **20<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**, Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.
  - **18<sup>th</sup> July, 2016**, the closing date for Rio 2016 Official Final Entries (Rio Sport Entry deadline) to the FEI.
  - **8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016**, first horse inspection for Dressage.
- 1.3 As such, this selection policy combines both competition and general criteria in order for the Dressage High Performance Committee to select the IRL athlete (s) to compete at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. The primary objective is to nominate and select horse and athlete combination (s) that the Committee believes will achieve the best possible individual result at the 2016 Olympic Games.
- 1.4 All deadlines are subject to change in order to conform to 2016 Olympic Games deadlines.

## SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

Athletes wishing to be considered to represent Ireland at the 2016 Olympic Games must comply with the following:-

- 2.1 **Citizenship:** The athlete must be an Irish citizen and have a valid Irish Passport that does not expire until after February 9, 2017.
- 2.2 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the 2016 Olympic Games must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability between January 1, 2015 and June 19, 2016 in accordance with the *FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2016 Rio (BRA) Olympic Games, Article 626*, appended at Schedule 1. The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website <http://www.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/rio-2016>.
- 2.3 Athletes participating in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games Dressage Competitions must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998 (eighteen (18) years of age in the year of the Olympic Games).

- 2.4 A horse must be a minimum of eight (8) years of age, as per *Article 606.2.1 of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, effective for 2016 Rio (BRA) Olympic Games*.
- 2.5 Qualified horses must meet the ownership conditions as laid down in *Article 606.2.2.1 of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, effective for 2016 Rio (BRA) Olympic Games*.
- 2.6 The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
- 2.7 Athletes must sign the OCI 'Team Members Agreement & IOC Eligibility Form'.

### **SECTION III RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 It is each athlete's responsibility to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Dressage and the FEI Clean Sport policy.
- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the following:
- i. FEI General Regulations and the FEI General Regulations for Equestrian Events Rio (BRA) 2016 Olympic Games;
  - ii. FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse;
  - iii. FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules and the Human Anti-Doping Rules as set out by the FEI, the ISC & WADA;
  - iv. Horse Sport Ireland General Rules;
  - v. The Horse Sport Ireland Athlete Code of Conduct and act in a manner that does not bring Team Ireland Equestrian into disrepute, appended at Schedule 2;
- 3.3 Prompt communications with the Dressage High Performance Committee, Team Veterinarian, Horse Sport Ireland and the Olympic Council of Ireland in relation to OCI/IOC Olympic Advance Data Capture requirements.
- 3.4 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behavior.
- 3.5 Athletes selected will be required to wear the official OCI/HSI Team Ireland kit while participating at the 2016 Olympic Games.

### **SECTION IV VETERINARY**

- 4.1 The Dressage High Performance Committee and/or Horse Sport Ireland can request that a horse be made available for inspection by a designated Horse Sport Ireland Team Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request. Athletes must notify the Dressage High Performance Committee of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent.
- 4.2 The Dressage High Performance Committee and/or Horse Sport Ireland can send an appointed Team Veterinarian and/or designated Veterinarian to take a blood and/or urine sample from a horse at any time, for the purposes of testing for prohibited substances, and/or as part of an assessment of the horse's well-being.
- 4.3 Athletes (at their own expense), shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, the veterinary records of horses being considered for selection. In addition, athletes, (at their own expense), shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses being considered for selection. Athletes, (at their own expense), shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's regular veterinarian. Failure to comply with any request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from selection by the Dressage High Performance Committee.

- 4.4 Each athlete will be required to keep a log book for their horses in which they must record all products and treatments used on or given to their horse from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2016 until the 2016 Olympic Games first vet inspection on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this log book at any time or can ask for the log to be transcribed into a document with a signed declaration that contains everything administered and given to the horse within a specified timeframe in line with rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.5 For the purposes of section IV, the Dressage High Performance Committee reserves their right to remove an athlete combination from selection, wherein the athlete does not comply with any of the above veterinary requests, the selected horse produces an adverse analytical finding following on from an assessment and/or the horse is deemed unsound to travel and compete at the Summer Olympic Games.

## **SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA**

- 5.1 The primary aim of this selection criteria is to select the athlete and horse combination (s) to represent Ireland which will deliver the best possible result at the Summer Olympic Games in Rio 2016 in the equestrian discipline of Dressage.
- 5.2 The Dressage High Performance Committee will take the following criteria into account in making their selections decisions and have due regard to the relevant statistical evidence available to them.
- 5.3 The results by the horse and rider combination at the relevant shows in 2015 & 2016 with emphasis on Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special classes followed by consideration of those in the Kur. Scores obtained in 2016 will be given greater weight by the Dressage High Performance Committee than scores obtained in 2015.
- 5.4 Further consideration may be given to:
- i. Consistency of scores over 64%;
  - ii. The star level of the shows and the star level of the panels of judges;
  - iii. The trend in average GP and GPS scores in 2015 & 2016;
  - iv. Scores in 2015 & 2016 – scores in 2016 will be given greater weight than scores obtained in 2015;
  - v. The horse/rider combination's experience and ability to cope with the pressures and challenges of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games will come into consideration.

## **SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE**

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Dressage High Performance Committee may, at their discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances.
- 6.2 For the purposes of section 6.1 above, extenuating circumstances means an inability to compete, or perform at an optimum level arising from:
- i. Injury or illness;
  - ii. Bereavement or personal misfortune, and/or;
  - iii. Any other factors reasonably considered by the Dressage High Performance Committee to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Dressage High Performance Committee by email of this fact and the reasons thereof as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.
- 6.4 In the case of injury or illness, athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctor (s) nominated by Horse Sport Ireland. The Dressage High Performance Committee reserves the power to remove an athlete where the designated medical officer deems the athlete unfit to compete, at the level which resulted in their selection for the Summer Olympic Games.

- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Dressage High Performance Committee on a case by case basis.

## **SECTION VII - REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 7.1 An athlete may be removed from individual or team selection, travelling reserve selection FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries, by the Dressage High Performance Committee pursuant clause 4.3, 4.5 and 6.4 above.
- 7.2 An athlete may be removed from individual or team selection, travelling reserve selection FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries for any of the following reasons, as determined by Horse Sport Ireland Removal Panel;
- i. Violation of the WADA, ISC and FEI (Human & Equine) Anti-Doping protocol, policies and procedures;
  - ii. Violation of the FEI Hypersensitivity Protocol;
  - iii. An adverse analytical finding following on from testing pursuant to the WADA, ISC and FEI Anti-Doping protocol, (Human & Equine) policies and procedures;
  - iv. Violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations and HSI General Rules;
  - v. Violation of the HSI Code of Conduct
  - vi. Any action which could damage the reputation of the Sport or the Country;
- 7.3 A decision of the Horse Sport Ireland Removal Panel is final and binding.

## **SECTION VIII - DISCLAIMERS**

- 8.1 These procedures are based on FEI General Regulations, FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, applicable FEI Sport Rules and the 2016 OCI Agreement for Selection of the Athletes for the Sport – Equestrian, as presently known and understood. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to Horse Sport Ireland. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.
- 8.2 As such, this policy can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to amend or change the Selection Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objective of the Selection Policy. In the event, that Horse Sport Ireland is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in any of the above stated rules, regulations and agreements, to give effect to the policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

## **SECTION IX APPEALS**

- 9.1 An eligible athlete who fails to be selected for the individual place or team place pursuant to the process and criteria set out in this policy, may appeal against omission from the individual or team selection, as set out in this section.
- 9.2 The sole grounds of any appeal are that:
- i. the athlete's omission from selection for the individual or team place was as a result of a failure by the High Performance Manager to properly apply the selection criteria set out in this policy; and/or that;
  - ii. there was no material on which the selection decision could reasonably be based;
  - iii. there has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the applicable Selection Policy;
  - iv. the correct procedures were not followed in the application of this criteria;

- 9.3 Any appeal under section IX will be dealt with by Just Sport Ireland. <http://justsport.ie/> , JSI is an independent dispute resolution service for Irish Sport.
- 9.4 Appeals will be heard by Just Sport Ireland and otherwise proceed in accordance with the time limits set out below and in accordance Just Sport Ireland Arbitration Rules for final and binding arbitration. The Just Sport Ireland Rules are appended at Schedule 3.
- 9.5 **Notice of Appeal:**  
Any eligible athlete wishing to appeal against their omission from the selection must lodge a Notice of Appeal Form (Appendix A, JSI Rules), and comply with the requirements as set out in Rule 14 and Rule 57 of Just Sport Ireland Arbitration Rules. Athletes must submit the completed form within **48 hours of receipt** (tbc) by them of the selection decision via phone call from the High Performance Manager. Athletes should note that the time limit as set out in JSI Rule 14.2 (b) does **not** apply in this instance.
- 9.6 **Statement of Appeal:**  
Within **48 hours after** (tbc) lodging the JSI Notice of Appeal Form, the appellant (the athlete making the appeal) must file a Statement of Appeal as set out in Rule 14.2 (f) & (g) of JSI Arbitration Rules, Appendix B. Athletes should note that the time limit of (7) days as set out in JSI Rule 14.2 (f) does **not** apply in this instance.
- 9.7 **Reply**  
Within **48 hours from** (tbc) receipt of the Statement of Appeal, the Respondent (Team Manager) shall file a “Reply Form” in accordance with the provisions of Rule 14.3 (a) & (b) and Rule 57 of the JSI Arbitration Rules. Athletes should note that the time limit of (14) days as set out in JSI Rule 14.2 (a) does **not** apply in this instance.

ENDS

Approved by the Horse Sport Ireland Board on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.