



**ATHLETE SELECTION POLICY – SHOWJUMPING
2015 FEI™ EUROPEAN JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS, (CH-EU-S) AACHEN,
GERMANY, 19th-23rd AUGUST, 2015**

The 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships provide competition at the highest level. Horse Sport Ireland is committed to selecting athletes whose current results and/or previous major international results indicate that the athlete is capable of being competitive at European level and by competing at the FEI™ European Jumping Championships is likely to contribute to securing Olympic qualification for Rio 2016.

SECTION I – TIMELINES

- 1.1 Horse Sport Ireland intends to announce the team/squad of four plus one reserve selected to compete at the 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships by 10th August, 2015.
- 1.2 Selection will be made by the High Performance Manager, following discussion with the High Performance Showjumping Committee and Team Veterinarian.

SECTION II – ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

Athletes wishing to be considered to represent Ireland at the 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships must comply with the following:-

- 2.1 All horses and athletes must achieve the minimum eligibility requirements (MER's) and qualification standards required by the FEI at events as set in <http://www.fei.org/fei/events/championships/jumping/seniors-2015>
- 2.2 Horse Sport Ireland can request that a horse be made available for inspection by the Team Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request. Athletes must notify the High Performance Manager of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues immediately.
- 2.3 Each athlete who is in contention for selection will be required to keep log book for their horses in which they must record all products and treatments administered and a record of feedstuffs provided. Furthermore, the athlete is required to list all supplements administered to their horses, including all details such as date of administration, dose, place of administration (location), official product name and relevant batch number. For the purposes of the 2015 FEI European Championships™, logbooks must be maintained from 1st June, 2015 until the first vet inspection Monday 17th August, 2015. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this log book at any time. All of the above must be transcribed into the official Horse Sport Ireland logbook with a signed declaration within a specified timeframe in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 2.4 Horse Sport Ireland can send the Team Veterinarian or his designate 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.

SECTION III – RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is each rider's responsibility to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Jumping and the FEI Clean Sport policy.
- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the principles of the following:
- i. FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse
<http://www.fei.org/fei/your-role/veterinarians>
 - ii. Horse Sport Ireland Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules <http://www.horsesportireland.ie/governance/hsi-rule-book/> and the (ISC) Irish Anti-Doping Rules, 2015 <http://www.horsesportireland.ie/governance/anti-doping/> , as amended from time to time.
 - iii. FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules and the FEI Human Anti-Doping Rules, <http://www.fei.org/content/anti-doping-rules> as amended from time to time
 - iv. HSI code of conduct <http://www.horsesportireland.ie/governance/hsi-code-of-conduct/> and act in a manner that does not bring Team Ireland Equestrian into disrepute.
- 3.3 Prompt communications with the High Performance Manager, Team Veterinarian and HSI in relation to the HSI HP Programme must be observed.
- 3.4 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour. During the period between the announcement of the team and reserves and the date of departure, athletes must demonstrate that they are physically fit, performing well and likely to compete at a level appropriate required at the 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships for which they have been selected.
- 3.5 Subsequent to selection, the HPM will undertake regular evaluations as to the selected combinations standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their jumping form (as a combination and on other horses) in which they have been selected. Any advices provided by the SJ Technical Advisor, Team Veterinarian, Medical and Sport Support Services Personnel may be utilised by the HPM, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the High Performance Manager. Furthermore, the HPM shall have the authority to withdraw a selected horse/athlete combination from the squad/team, or as a reserve, where the selected horse and/or athlete has not maintained their fitness, standard of performance, jumping form or any other performance related matter in which the HPM considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the FEI™ European Jumping Championships.
- 3.6 Furthermore, subsequent to selection, evaluations shall be made from time to time as to the selected combinations standard of fitness, their progress in training and their preparedness for the event in which they have been selected. Such evaluations shall be directed and be under the control of the High Performance Manager. If, as a result of such evaluations, it is considered by the HPM, after consultation with the team veterinarian, approved medical official and/or sport support services personnel, that by reason of ill health, injury or some other matter, a selected horse and/or athlete has not maintained their fitness or standard of performance so as to be able to represent Ireland at a standard comparable to

that exhibited so as to gain selection, the HPM shall have the authority to withdraw that horse/athlete combination from the team. Such substitutions will be in line with Article 319.2 and Article 320.2.2 of the FEI Jumping Rules and Article 116.4.2 of the FEI General Regulations. The decision of the HPM is final.

SECTION-IV – SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1 The specific aim of this selection criteria is to select athlete and horse combinations to represent Ireland which will deliver the best possible results and ultimately secure qualification for the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 at the 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships in the equestrian discipline of Jumping.
- 4.2 The combinations will be selected by the High Performance Team Manager in accordance with the following criteria:-
 - I. All horses and athlete combinations must achieve the minimum eligibility requirements (MER's) and qualification standards required by the FEI as set out in <http://www.fei.org/fei/events/championships/jumping/seniors-2015>
 - II. The performance of the combinations in FEI Top Level Nations Cups 2015.
 - III. The performance of the combinations in FEI Top Level Nations Cups 2014, the World Equestrian Games 2014, the Furusiyya Final Barcelona 2013, The Olympic Games 2012 and Top Level Nations Cups 2013.
 - IV. The form of horses that have demonstrated the ability to perform comfortably and consistently in top competition.
 - V. The suitability of the likely conditions for the horse and athlete being considered. This can include the surface on which the competition is taking place, the size of the arena, the proximity of the arena to other activities that could affect concentration and other factors that can affect jumping conditions.
 - VI. Past and present form, and the horse and rider as a combination, experience and ability to cope with the pressures and challenges of the 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships, in light of the necessity to secure qualification for the Olympic Games, Rio 2016, will be taken into consideration. A rider's form on other horses may also be taken into consideration
- 4.3 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing at the 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships, will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Team Veterinarian and HPM fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the selection period. All selected team members must immediately inform the HPM and Team Vet of any illness or injury that could (however minor) impact on the horse's ability to perform at the level expected of the horse at the 2015 FEI™ European Jumping Championships. Where it comes apparent that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the HPM has the power to withdraw that combination from the team with immediate effect.
- 4.4 The HPM with the benefit of advice from the Team Vet, and the High Performance Manager's Advisor, reserves the right to make a discretionary selection of any particular rider/horse combination, where he sees fit.
- 4.5 Commitment to the HSI High Performance (HP) Programme will be a factor in selection.

- 4.6 In considering the performances of athletes at events, training camps or other attendances required under this criterion, the HPM may, at his discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances.
- 4.7 For the purposes of section 4.6 above, extenuating circumstances means an inability to compete, attend training camps or perform at an optimum level arising from:
- i. Injury or illness
 - ii. Travel delays (force majeure)
 - iii. Bereavement or personal misfortune, and/or
 - iv. Any other factors reasonably considered by the HPM to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 4.8 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under these criteria must advise the HPM by email of this fact and the reasons thereof as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.
- 4.9 In the case of injury or illness, athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors nominated by HSI.
- 4.10 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the HPM on an individual basis.

SECTION V – SELECTION

- 5.1 Selected combinations will be informed by the HPM by phone call and email.
- 5.2 The High Performance Manager will advise non-selected athletes, in the first instance, by way of phone call. The HPM will not discuss with the non-selected athlete the reasons why that individual athlete was not selected, until such time as selected athletes and all other athletes have been notified. The HPM will contact non - selected athletes thereafter to discuss their non-selection, should they wish to do so. The HPM is not required to provide his reasoning for selected athletes to non-selected athletes. This is a matter entirely for the HPM.
- 5.3 All Athletes selected will be required to wear Team Ireland kit and promote the Team Ireland brand while participating at the 2015 FEI European Jumping Championships™ as set out in rule 8.3 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 5.4 As a condition of selection, the selected athlete shall wear and cause to be worn only official Team Ireland Equestrian provided attire, if applicable, or approved attire, if not provided, during the 2015 FEI European Jumping Championships™ while in the competition ring, schooling area and field of play. Attire includes but is not limited to, competition clothing, helmets, jackets, gilets, shoes, saddle pads and rugs which display the official sponsors of Team Ireland Equestrian. In the event that the athlete does not comply with clause 5.5, the HPM reserves his right to withdraw that combination from the team or individual position with immediate effect.
- 5.5 One of the goals of the HSI HP Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If athletes are not contributing to this they may be excluded from the squad and not considered for selection.
- 5.6 All athletes that are selected are required to comply with requests with regard to accreditation from the HP administrator in timely and prompt manner. Once an athlete is selected identity documentation and team kit sizing will be required.

SECTION VI – REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 6.1 An athlete can be removed from the FEI nominated and definite entries, squad and/or team any time for any of the following reasons, as determined by the HPM and in accordance with these procedures:
- i. For reasons as set out in section 3.5 & 3.6, section 4.3, section 5.3 & 5.4 above.
 - ii. Violation of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules, Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules, (ISC) Irish Anti-Doping Rules, 2015, as amended from time to time, the FEI General Regulations, applicable Sport Rules, FEI Statutes, FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules and the FEI Human Anti-Doping Rules, as amended from time to time and the FEI Hypersensitivity Protocol.
 - iii. Injury or illness as certified by a HSI approved medical doctor and/or Sport Support Services personnel;
 - iv. Injury or illness of the horse as certified by the Team Veterinarian or his designated replacement where applicable
 - v. Violation of the HSI Code of Conduct

SECTION VII - DISCLAIMERS

- 7.1 These procedures are based on the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules, FEI Regulations and Sport Rules as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FEI General Regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. 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.
- 7.2 As such, this policy can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. In the event, that Horse Sport Ireland is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in the FEI requirements and/or the HSI General Rules 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 by Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.
- 7.3 Selection to a Team or selection for an individual position does not guarantee that funds will be available to send a team or that individual to 2015 FEI European Jumping Championships™.

ENDS 21/07/15