



HORSE SPORT IRELAND  
ATHLETE SELECTION POLICY – EVENTING  
2016 OLYMPIC GAMES, RIO, BRAZIL 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016

## SECTION I TIMELINES

### 1.1 The Horse Sport Ireland Olympic selection process timelines are as follows:

- **Week Commencing 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**, the Eventing High Performance Manager selects the team 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 High Performance Manager 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.
- **5<sup>th</sup> August, 2016**, first horse inspection for Eventing.

1.2 As such, this selection policy combines both competition and general criteria in order for the High Performance Manager to select the IRL athletes to compete at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. The High Performance Manager primary objective is to nominate the appropriate ‘mix of combinations’ to give Ireland the best chance of winning a team medal at the 2016 Olympic Games.

1.3 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 on the 2016 Olympic Games Eventing Team (“Team”) must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability between January 1, 2015 and June 19, 2016, inclusive, 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. The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website <http://www.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/rio-2016> and are appended at schedule 1.
- 2.3 Athletes participating in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games Eventing Competitions must be born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998 (eighteen (18) years of age in the year of the Olympics Games), as per the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 606.1.2.
- 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 – RESPONSIBILITES**

- 3.1 It is each athlete's responsibility to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Eventing and the FEI Clean Sport policy.
- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the principles of 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, ISC and 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 High Performance Manager, Team Coaches, Team Veterinarian, Horse Sport Ireland and the Olympic Council of Ireland in relation to the HSI High Performance Programme and OCI/IOC Olympic Advance Data Capture requirements.
- 3.4 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behavior.
- 3.5 All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official OCI & HSI Team Ireland kit while participating at the 2016 Olympic Games.
- 3.6 The HPM has set **24<sup>th</sup> July, 2016** as the last day that athletes can compete other horses before 2016 Olympic Games.
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland High Performance Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If an athlete is not contributing to this, the High Performance Manager reserves his right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.

### **SECTION IV VETERINARY**

- 4.1 The High Performance Manager and/or 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 when they first become apparent.
- 4.2 The High Performance Manager and/or Horse Sport Ireland can send the Team Veterinarian and/or an appointed 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 High Performance Manager.

- 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 1st June, 2016 until the 2016 Olympic Games first vet inspection on 5<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 High Performance Manager reserves his 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 Combinations to be selected will be identified by the Eventing High Performance Manager in his sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible team result at the 2016 Olympic Games. Without in any way limiting the discretion of the High Performance Manager, the High Performance Manager will consider the following in relation to any combination:
- 5.2 In assessing the performances of Combinations, the High Performance Manager will consider the following competition & general measures:

Competition considerations:

- i. The High Performance Manager will primarily consider competition results achieved at in the top 25% at CCI \*\*\*\*, CCI \*\*\*, CIC \*\*\* during 2015 and 2016;
  - ii. In order to maximise selection chances, combinations should be aiming to achieve at least one result at 3\* International level or above of 70% or better in the dressage, zero show jumping penalties, and clear cross country with no more than 8 time penalties (or no more than 20 seconds slower than the fastest horse in the class);
  - iii. The final score (across all three phases of the competition);
  - iv. The scores achieved in each individual phase; and
  - v. The final placing of the Combination (note that the score and the placing of each Combination will be considered but do not automatically position one Combination above another for selection purposes).
- 5.3 Athletes have the option to further *maximize* their chances of selection by competing at the following identified key selected competitions in 2016 from the table below:

**Option A – Athletes to compete at 3 events from the 4 listed below (one of the three selected events must be Tattersalls CIC3\*)**

23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Fontainebleau (FRA)	CICO3* - NC
15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Belton (GBR)	CIC3*
14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Chatsworth (GBR)	CIC3*
1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	Tattersalls (IRL)	CIC3*

**Option B – Athletes choose one event from the events listed below plus one event from Option A above.**

27 <sup>th</sup> April – 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2016	Lexington (USA)	CCI4*
5 <sup>th</sup> May – 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Badminton (GBR)	CCI4*
19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2016	Saumur (FRA)	CCI3*
1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	Tattersalls (IRL)	CCI3*

- 5.4 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the 2016 Olympic Games will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Team Veterinarian

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 High Performance Manager and Team Veterinarian of any illness or injury (however minor). Where it becomes apparent that a squad horse is unsound and/or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the High Performance Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from the team with immediate effect.

## 5.5 General Considerations

In assessing the performances of Combinations, the High Performance Manager will give consideration to general factors. These general factors include, but are not limited to:

- i. Past performances and present form of the athlete and horses combination. An athlete's form on other horses may also be taken in to consideration;
- ii. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the cross country course and the arenas at Deodoro, Rio de Janeiro, BRA and for the unexpected conditions of the Rio Olympic Games (taking into account the objective of the team and individual competition);
- iii. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support staff to operate and perform in an Olympic environment which is highly regulated;
- iv. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
- v. the overall balance of the Combinations that have been selected;
- vi. the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at the highest level of international competition;
- vii. demonstrated experience and/ or success at Championship level; the ability, or potential ability, of a Horse and/or Athlete to perform under the stress and pressure of an Olympic Games;
- viii. the ability of the Athlete to prepare their Horse to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the Olympic Games;
- ix. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a team medal outcome may be a consideration;
- x. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve an individual medal) may be a consideration and may, in the High Performance Manager's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination;
- xi. Strong commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland High Performance (HP) Programme;

## SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the High Performance Manager may, at his 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 High Performance Manager to constitute extenuating circumstances;

6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the High Performance Manager 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 High Performance Manager reserves his right 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 High Performance Manager 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 High Performance Manager pursuant clause 3.7, 4.3, 4.5, 5.4, 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 HSI. 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 a team place pursuant to the process and criteria set out in this policy, may appeal against omission from the 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 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** ~~(tbe)~~ 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** ~~(tbe)~~ 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** ~~(tbe)~~ 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.

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