



Athlete Selection Policy
FEI Junior European Eventing Championships, 2017
CH-EU-J-CCI1*, Millstreet, IRL

SECTION I

TIMELINES

- 1.1 The CH-EU-J-CCI1* 2017, Millstreet, IRL selection process timelines are as follows;
- 1.2 **19th June, 2017** Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries (36 combinations) to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the CH-EU-J-CCI1*, Millstreet, pursuant to Article 501.3.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules, 2017;
- 1.3 **Wednesday 5th July, 2017** : 12 squad athletes will be selected, of the 12 squad athletes listed, 4 athletes will have obtained their place on the squad via the *'points ranking system'* detailed below, the remaining 8 athletes will be selected as per Section 5 arising out of their performances throughout the season;
- 1.4 **Wednesday 5th July, 2017** in addition to the 12 squad athletes as detailed above, 4 combinations will be named as non- travelling reserves;
- 1.5 **11th July, 2017** Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI.
- 1.6 **Wednesday 19th July, 2017** following the first official horse inspection, the IRL championship team of 4 athletes will be selected;

SECTION II

ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the CH-EU-J-CCI1*, Millstreet must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with Article 521 of the FEI Eventing Rules;
- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Junior Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team to ensure that the athlete/horse combination has the required MER for the level of the Championship. In this case the MER for the CH-EU-J-CCI1*, Millstreet is ONE CCI* as a combination, pursuant to Article 521 of the FEI Eventing Rules;
- 2.3 Thereafter, Junior Athletes, their Person Responsible and or their personal management team should be mindful that the MER as stated above, is only a **MINIMUM** requirement;

SECTION III

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Junior Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team 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;
 - 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, please see appendix 1 attached;

- 3.3 Prompt communications with the High Performance Manager, Team Coaches, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Junior High Performance Programme are required throughout the season;
- 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 HSI Team Ireland Equestrian kit while participating at the CH-EU-J-CCII*, Millstreet;
- 3.6 The HPM has set **2nd July** as the last day that athletes can compete before the CH-EU-J-CCII*, Millstreet unless otherwise instructed by the Junior High Performance Manager.
- 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 her 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 or an appointed 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 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 or an appointed 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, in consultation with the horse's regular private treating veterinarian. Failure to comply with any request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed 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, treatments, supplements used on or given to their horse from 19th June, 2017 until the first vet inspection on 19th July, 2017. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this log book at any time. Athletes are required to submit this log book to the Team Veterinarian on or before 14th July, 2017 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 her right to remove an athlete combination from selection, where the athlete does not comply with any of the above veterinary requests or the horse is deemed unsound by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the CH-EU-J-CCII*, Millstreet.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Pursuant to the 2017 FEI Eventing Rules, **a team of 4 athlete/horse combinations, and 8 individual athlete/horse combinations** are authorised to take part in the CH-EU-J-CCII* as IRL is the host country for 2017.
- 5.2 The Junior High Performance Manager reserves her right where appropriate not to send 12 combinations to take part in the CH-EU-J-CCII* as per section 5.1 above.
- 5.3 In order to retain a squad place for the CH-EU-J-CCII*, athletes have two options available to them, **OPTION A & OPTION B:**

Option A

- 5.4 **4 of the 12 squad places** can be 'won' based on a 'points ranking system'. Points will be allocated to athletes based on placing at the **identified key events** listed below. Please refer to the points table at appendix 2 attached.

Ballindenisk CCIJ1* (19th – 23rd April 2017) OR Tattersalls CCIJ1* (31 st May - 4 th June 2017) OR Tattersalls CCI2*(u25) (31 st May - 4 th June 2017)
Note: Points will be allocated at each event, but if a Junior athlete chooses to do Ballindenisk CCIJ1* or Tattersalls CCIJ1* / Tattersalls CCI2*(u25) it will be the athletes best result from either event (Ballindenisk or Tattersalls) that will be the only one to count for points.
Tyrella 3 O/CNC2** (15 th April 2017)
Rosanna O/CNC2** (30 th April 2017)
Punchestown O/CNC2** (7 th May 2017)
Kilguilkey O/CNC2** (14 th May 2017)
Punchestown 2 O/CNC2** (21 st May 2017)
The High Performance Manager has allowed for 5 identified key national (CNC2**) events so that Junior athletes have the flexibility to choose their events.
Combinations should be mindful it will be their best two places that will be taken for points. Therefore, no more than TWO CNC2** shall be used for points.
For combinations to compete at CNC National 2* level they must meet the necessary Eventing Ireland Qualifications.
Kilguilkey (30th June – 2nd July 2017) CIC1* Note: all nominated entry athletes are expected to compete here unless expressly excused by the High Performance Manager.

- 5.5 In the case of all of the **O/CNC2** national events listed at clause 5.4 above together with Tattersalls CCI2*(u25) & Kilguilkey CIC1***, it is the combinations position in the class in line with the 'points ranking system' rather than amongst the Junior athletes in the class, which will determine their points allocation if any.
- 5.6 Where Junior athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams decide to pursue **Option A**, such individuals must take into account horse welfare considerations when running their respective horses, especially with regard to the identified key national (CNC2**) events. The High Performance Manager has allowed for 5 identified key national (CNC2**) events so that Junior athletes have the flexibility to choose their events. However, Junior athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management should not compromise a horses welfare for the sake of points accumulation. The High Performance Manager may deem this contrary to the spirit of the Junior HP Programme.
- 5.7 Junior athletes are encouraged to discuss their particular competition plan with the High Performance Manager at the start and during the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the High Performance Manager to verify particular

plans for Junior Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Junior Athlete, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams who are in a position make an informed decision on their competition plan based on the combinations requisite competency and skill at that time.

- 5.8 In the case where combinations finished level on accumulated points within the '*points ranking system*' set out above, the combinations finishing position in the last leg in Kilguilkey CIC1* 30th June – 2nd July, 2017 will determine their final ranking compared to the other combinations that finish on the same accumulated score.
- 5.9 If a combination does not compete in Kilguilkey CIC1* 30th June – 2nd July, 2017 they will be considered to have finished behind all those who did compete there for the purposes of resolving a tie in the accumulation of points as set out above.
- 5.10 Squad places secured via the '*points ranking system*' will be officially allocated after Kilguilkey CIC1* 30th June – 2nd July, 2017.
- 5.11 Athletes should note that these rankings will not carry forward to Millstreet. Following arrival in Millstreet and on the completion of the first official horse inspection, the Team Manager will select the four combinations to compete for Ireland in the team competition from amongst the twelve that travel as part of the squad.

Option B

- 5.11 **8 of the 12 squad places** may be selected by the High Performance Manager in her sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible result at the CH-EU-J-CCII*, Millstreet, IRL.
- 5.12 The Junior Eventing High Performance Manager may select **up to 8 athlete/horse combinations based on their performances at any of the identified key events for the 'points ranking system' as set out in section 5.4 above and/or any other national or international events throughout the 2017 season.**
- 5.13 Without in anyway limiting the discretion of the High Performance Manager, the following measures will be considered in the context of the selection of 8 of the 12 squad places.
- 5.14 Further, the below measures will also be considered when selecting the 4 athlete/horse combinations that will be named as non-travelling reserves in order. All reserves selected should be available (if necessary) to step in to the squad up until the departure date for the Championships.
- 5.15 In assessing the performances of combinations, the High Performance Manager will consider the following **competition measures**:
 - i. The final score (across all three phases of the competition);
 - ii. The scores achieved in each individual phase; and
 - iii. 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)
- 5.16 In assessing the performance of combinations, the High Performance Manager will give consideration to **general measures**. These general measures include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Past performances and present form of the athlete and horse combination.

- ii. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the cross country course and the arenas at Millstreet, IRL and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU-J-CCI1*, (taking into account the objective of the team and individual competition);
- iii. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support team to operate and perform in a FEI championship environment which is highly regulated & pressurised;
- 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 a FEI Championships;
- viii. the ability of the Athlete, their personal responsible and/or their personal management team to prepare their Horse to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the FEI Championship;
- 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;

- 5.17 Where Junior athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams decide to pursue **Option B**, such individuals may wish to discuss their particular competition plan with the High Performance Manager at the start and during the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the High Performance Manager to verify particular plans for Junior Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Junior Athlete, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams who are in a position make an informed decision on their competition plan based on the combinations requisite competency and skill at that time.
- 5.18 On completion of the first official horse inspection, the High Performance Manager will select the **four athlete/horse combinations**, which in her sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible team result at the Junior European Eventing Championships.
- 5.19 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured via **Option A or Option B** as stated above, this place is wholly dependent on the athlete/horse combination maintaining fitness, form and soundness.
- 5.20 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU-J-CCI1*, Millstreet, IRL will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the High Performance Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the selection period. From 5th July, 2017 all selected squad 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 squad with immediate effect. Further, the Team Veterinarian or his designate decision is final.

- 5.21 Prior and subsequent to selection, the High Performance Manager may undertake regular evaluations as to the combinations standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their form over three disciplines (as a combination and on other horses). Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, Team Coaches, and medical professionals may be utilised by the High Performance Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the High Performance Manager.
- 5.22 Furthermore, the High Performance Manager shall have the authority to remove a selected horse/athlete combination from the squad or as a reserve, where the selected horse and/or athlete has not maintained their fitness, standard of performance, form over three disciplines 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 CH-EU-J-CCII*, Millstreet, IRL.
- 5.23 High Performance Squad training will be held at various times and dates throughout the season. Please see appendix 3 attached. Once the squad has been selected after Kilgultkey CIC1* 30th June – 2nd July, training will commence for those 12 squad athletes.

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 her 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 her 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 CH-EU-J-CCII*.
- 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 squad selection (individual or team) non- travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries by the High Performance Manager pursuant clause 3.7, 4.5, 5.6, 6.4 above;
- 7.2 An athlete may be removed from squad selection (individual or team), non- 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 and applicable FEI Sport Rules 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.

ENDS

Updated 29.03.2017 following consultation period. The following amendments have been made:

- 1. Clause 1.4 – The High Performance Manager will now announced 4 combinations as non-travelling reserves on 5th July 2017.
- 2. Clause 5.4 - Ballindenisk CCIJ1* now included in the FEI calendar, therefore same will be a points class as opposed to CCI1*. Please note the deletion of the CCI1* for points. The points allocation for Ballindenisk CCIJ1* is the same as Tattersalls CCIJ1*.
- 3. Clause 5.5 – In the case of all of the CNC2** national events listed at clause 5.4 above together with Tattersalls CCI2*(u25) & Kilguilkey CIC1*, it is the combinations position in the class in line with the ‘points ranking system’ rather than amongst the Junior athletes in the class, which will determine their points allocation if any.

Updated 10/04/2017

- 4. O/CNC2** - Please note that Eventing Ireland have advised that horses with more than 50 points can only compete HC (Hons Concours) in CNC2**.
As such, all junior athletes will compete in the O/CNC2* as a majority of junior horses have more than 50 points. The selection policy is amended to reflect the event categorization. There is no change to the star level or type of track.