



HORSE SPORT IRELAND



Criteria for the selection of the 2020+ Horizon Squad for the Eventing High Performance Programme

1. Nature of the Programme

- 1.1 The purpose of this programme is to provide Ireland's eventing athletes with the best preparation within the allocated resources to represent Team Ireland at European, World and Olympic level. This programme aims to make the best athletes better, through the provision of a range of services and financial support, (where funding permits). The Programme also seeks to work closely with the Owners to ensure that they are fully involved with the process of trying to win medals. As a member of the Senior Eventing High Performance Programme ('HPP') the athlete and horse will receive guidance regarding their specified individual programmes, which incorporates a team focus, coordinated by the Eventing High Performance Director and Horse Sport Ireland. This programme aims to improve the performance of the athlete and horse, as a combination, with the ultimate goal of securing podium finishes.
- 1.2 Where a combination is selected for the Senior Eventing High Performance Programme, the combination will be named on the relevant High Performance squad. The criteria below sets out the requirements in order to be included on the **2020+ Horizon Squad**. This squad incorporates U25 athletes and combinations who have not yet met the criteria to be included on the 2018 WEG/2020 Horizon Squad. Such combinations are selected by the Eventing High Performance Director ('HPD') on the basis that the said combinations are capable of being competitive at international level.

2. The 2020+ Horizon Squad

Each Athlete/Horse combination ("the Combination") is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the **'2020+ Horizon Squad'**

- 2.1 The purpose of the squad is to select the combinations that are developing and have demonstrated an ability to improve, from participating in a High Performance Programme and be committed to
- i. Success individually and as a Team Ireland Member;
 - ii. Personal bests at targeted competitions;
 - iii. Taking ownership of their performances;
 - iv. Being willing to make change and develop;
 - v. Commitment to team and to drive best team culture;
 - vi. Have personal coaches, individual performance plans, personal fitness structures and horse management programmes in place;
 - vii. Ownership of the horse must be secured and they must be available to compete for Team Ireland.

2.2 The High Performance Director will select *up to* 10 athletes to form the **2020 +Horizon Squad** which will incorporate the U25 athlete.

2.3 Under 25 Horizon Athletes

- i. Athletes must be between 20 and 25 years old on 1st January.
- ii. Athletes must be eligible to compete for IRL.
- iii. Have a horse with international potential.
- iv. Athletes must have ambitions to compete at 3* and 4* level with a view to progression to the applicable senior squad.

In addition, the following is a mandatory requirement, athletes should have attained at least one of the below:

- i. Be shortlisted for the Young Rider European Squad in the preceding 3 years
- ii. Top 20% placing in a senior CCI2* or Under 25 CCI2*.
- iii. Clear round XC at a CIC3* or CCI3* with 63% or above in Dressage and no more than 8 penalties SJ and 36 time penalties.
- iv. Show jumped successfully at 1.30m or above nationally or internationally.

2.4 Horizon Athletes:

- i. Display good recent form (2016 onwards) at CCI2/3* level **or** finish in the top 25% at a CIC2/3*, and are ready to move up to CCI2/3* or above in 2018.
- ii. In order to give themselves the best possible chance of selection, horse/athlete combinations should be aiming to achieve consistent results at CIC2/3* 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).

2.5 Selection for U25 Horizon Athletes may consist of an interview with the HPD, Fitness examination and ridden assessment. The HPD may hold designated U25 squad assessment days at the beginning of the season.

2.6 The High Performance Director reserves the right to remove a combination from the 2020 Horizon Squad if the combination is deemed to have made insufficient progress through the competition levels (for example a combination that has performed well at CIC2* /CIC*** but failed to perform at CCI *** level).

2.7 Athletes are required to inform the HPD and HSI Team Vet of any injury or unsoundness of a listed squad horse immediately. Non-disclosure of veterinary matters may warrant removal from the squad with immediate effect. The HPD in consultation with the HSI Team Vet may request that the squad horse be presented for veterinary assessment, at the cost of the athlete. In the event, that the Team Vet is of the opinion that the squad horse requires a rehabilitation period that is longer than 8 weeks, the HPD reserves his right to remove the athlete combination from the squad. The HPD decision is final.

2.8 It must be clear that the Combination is open to improvement and has demonstrated the ability to improve from training, and the support of the HPD at competitions, where available.

2.9 The HPM reserves the right to amend and update the criteria for inclusion in the **2020+ Horizon Squad**.

2.10 Combinations that are not currently listed on the 2020 Horizon Squad may be invited to join the 2020 Horizon Squad at any time. This invitation will be wholly dependent on results, attention to detail with regard to performance planning, team player orientation and the capability to perform to the highest standard under pressure. Such Combinations will be considered based on their results in 2017 and 2018. The HPD reserves the right to add additional combinations at any time.

- 2.11 **Horizon & U25 Horizon Athletes** are free to discuss with the HP Director the requirements which they need to achieve to be considered for inclusion on the **2018 WEG Development Squad**.

3. General criteria

- 3.1 Athletes must have demonstrated fitness, athlete experience, and the ability to develop and maintain a consistent training program. They must have demonstrated that they are ready for a rigorous training programme/preparation, as required for a successful international standard of competition.
- 3.2 The primary focus will be on combinations that have proven ability and that have already shown this ability [or potential] to represent Ireland at International level, and at high profile 2*,3* and 4* competitions.
- 3.3 In all instances, the standard of competition, the number of competitors, the number and level/experience of the judges, the type of ground/weather conditions and the overall quality of the competition will be taken into consideration.
- 3.4 Horses must be sound and fit to compete to the satisfaction of the HSI Team Vet or his designate. Athletes and owners must be prepared to submit their horses for fitness assessments by the HSI Team Vet or his designate and to submit a full veterinary history, as requested.
- 3.5 Athletes must be fit and able to compete to the satisfaction of the High Performance Director and the HSI Medical Officer.
- 3.6 Athletes must provide all requested paperwork regarding competition plans and performance reviews to the High Performance Director & Administrator **within the agreed deadlines**. Athletes should note that where the requisite paperwork is not submitted within the timeframe agreed, athletes are at risk of being removed from the **2020+ Horizon Squad**.
- 3.7 Squad Athletes agree that he/she will not comment publicly on **any issue** or concern he/she may have unless or until it is resolved **to the satisfaction of both the Athlete and HSI**.
- 3.8 Subject to clause 3.7, Squad Athletes acknowledge and agree that despite anything else in this Criteria, Squad Athletes will not make or provide adverse public comment on social media, national print or any other public forum, on any HSI matter related to the High Performance Eventing Programme and/or team to which he/she has been selected, including, but not only, any member of it, selection to it or performance of it. 'Adverse' in this clause means any comment which can be seen to be disparaging of, detrimental or prejudicial to, the Team, the 'HPM' and Horse Sport Ireland. Further, Athletes are bound by the Horse Sport Ireland Social Media Policy, appended at Schedule 2.
- 3.9 Any change in the selection procedure[s] caused by a change in the FEI Rules will be immediately distributed to the relevant athletes. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to HSI. However, selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.
- 3.10 As such, the criteria 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 guidelines; 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.

4. Squad Support

- 4.1 The High Performance Director will support members of the **2020+ Horizon Squad** in the form of interval meetings (either at training or in competition) to identify how each Athlete can improve or enhance their respective performance(s).
- 4.2 Athletes must be prepared to work within the High Performance Programme structure and will be required to submit “training and competition plans” to the High Performance Director, the team Dressage Coach and team SJ Coach, at the time of initial selection to the programme, and subsequently as requested during the year, by the HPM, Dressage and SJ Coach.
- 4.4 Once selected for the **2020+ Horizon Squad** horses may be required to present their horses for a **Veterinary Examination** at the request of the HPD. Athletes are requested to keep a veterinary log book for their respective squad horses for inspection at any time by the HSI Team Vet or his designate.
- 4.5 The HPD reserves the right to:
- Request all veterinary records pertaining to any squad horse;
 - Require a horse to undergo a further Veterinary Assessment at any time
 - Remove the combination from the **2020+ Horizon Squad** upon veterinary advice, if the HPD deems appropriate;

Any questions or queries with regard to this programme can be directed to the HPD.

Expressions of Interest for the above squad can be sent to:

Eventing High Performance Administrator: Aileen Cartwright acartwright@horsesportireland.ie