



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

**Athlete Selection Policy
FEI World Equestrian Games™
Tryon, (USA) 11-23 September, 2018
Jumping WEG-S**

SECTION I TIMELINES

1.2	23 July 2018	Post Aachen CSIO5* - The Senior Jumping High Performance Director will select a squad of five (5) combinations and non-travelling reserves to compete at the World Equestrian Games in Tryon, USA. The non-travelling reserves will be ranked in alphabetical order.
1.3	13 August 2018	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the WEG-S, pursuant to Article 303 of the FEI Rules for Jumping Championships and Games, effective 1 Jan, 2018 ; [Each NF may enter a maximum of 10 Athletes and 20 Horses with its nominated entries].
1.4	[TBC]	Selected WEG Squad horses will attend the IRL World Equestrian Games Exit Camp in Belgium unless expressly exempted by the Senior Jumping High Performance Director.
1.5	3 September 2018	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI. [Each NF may enter a maximum of five Athletes and 10 Horses with its definite entries].

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the WEG-S must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with [FEI World Equestrian Games Qualification Procedures](#).
- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Athlete to ensure that the athlete/horse combination has the required MER for the level of the Championship.

SECTION III RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Athlete to be fully aware and understand the current FEI Rules for Jumping, FEI Clean Sport policy and all relevant information with regard to the [World Equestrian Games™ 2018](#).
- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the rules & principles of the following:
 - i. [FEI General Regulations & FEI Sport Rules](#);
 - ii. FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse;
 - iii. HIS & [FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules](#) and the [Human Anti-Doping Rules](#) as set out by the FEI and Sport Ireland;
 - iv. Horse Sport Ireland General Rules;
 - v. The Horse Sport Ireland '*Athlete Code of Conduct*' please see **Appendix 1** attached;

- vi. The Horse Sport Ireland 'Social Media Policy', please see **Appendix 2** attached;
 - vii. Athletes are ambassadors of equestrian sport, they shall not act in a manner that brings Team Ireland Equestrian into disrepute,
- 3.3 Prompt communications with the Senior Jumping High Performance Director, Senior Jumping Development Manager, Team Veterinarian(s) and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Senior Jumping 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 WEG-S;
- 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 Senior Jumping High Performance Director reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The Senior Jumping High Performance Director and/or Horse Sport Ireland can request that a horse be made available for inspection by the Team Veterinarian(s) or an appointed Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request.
- 4.2 Athletes must notify the Senior Jumping High Performance Director of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent;
- 4.3 The Senior Jumping High Performance Director 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 FEI Pre-Arrival Testing and/or as part of an assessment of the horse's well-being;
- 4.4 Athletes (at their own expense), shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian, the veterinary records of horse(s) 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. 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 Director;
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a medication log book for their horses in which they shall record all products, treatments, foodstuffs and supplements used on or given to their horse from **11 June 2018** until the conclusion of the WEG-S.
- 4.6 The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this log book at any time. Athletes are required to submit this log book (**in strict confidence**) together with the Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration (**Appendix 3**) to the Team Veterinarian for assessment **on or before the FEI Final Definite Entries [date to be confirmed]** in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.7 In the event that treatments and medications are necessary **subsequent** to the submission of the log book, express approval is required from Team Veterinarian and the Senior Jumping High Performance Director. This is a **mandatory requirement** to ensure that squad horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.
- 4.8 Athletes should note that horses eligible for the World Equestrian Games will be subjected to [FEI Pre-Arrival Testing \(PAT\)](#). The PAT service will be available from 14 July 2018 until 23 August for full screening, thereafter elective screening until 5 September. The Senior Jumping High Performance Director reserves his right to select horses for PAT. The Team Veterinarian can submit samples that will be tested for

substances listed on the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List. Samples are to be sent to the FEI Central Laboratory, LGC in Newmarket, the same laboratory appointed to analyze A samples taken at the World Equestrian Games. This is a confidential process whereby the results will only be disclosed to the Senior Jumping High Performance Director & Team Veterinarian.

- 4.9 For the purposes of section IV, the Senior Jumping High Performance Director reserves his 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 and/or unfit by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the WEG-S. The decision of the High Performance Jumping Director on advice from Team Veterinarian is final.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 The primary aim of this criteria is to select athlete and horse combination (s) to represent Ireland who will deliver the best possible team result, and Olympic qualification at the World Equestrian Games, Tryon USA in the equestrian discipline of Jumping.
- 5.2 The following factors will be taken into consideration:
- I. Present form of the horse and athlete up to the date of selection;
 - II. Past performance (s) of the horse and athlete;
 - III. The performance of the combinations in FEI Top Level CSIO5* Nations Cups 2018;
 - IV. The performance of the combinations in CSI5* & CSIO5* Grand Prix's in 2017 & 2018;
 - V. The performance of the combinations at the European Show Jumping Championships 2017 and FEI Top Level CSIO5* Nations Cups 2017;
 - VI. The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing at the World Equestrian Games 2018;
 - VII. Commitment to the HSI High Performance (HP) Jumping Programme;
- 5.3 Notwithstanding Art. 5.2 above, the Senior Jumping High Performance Director reserves his right to consider the exceptional ability of a new Combination(s) (and the potential to achieve a team medal) and may, in the Senior Jumping High Performance Director's sole discretion, place such a Combination with less ring time ahead of any another Combination;
- 5.4 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Senior Jumping High Performance Director may give consideration to the following general measures. These general measures include, but are not limited to:
- i. 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 arenas in Tryon, (USA) and for the unexpected conditions of the WEG-S (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, 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;

5.5 The Senior Jumping High Director will consider section 5.2 (vii) in the following guise:

- 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;

5.6 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the WEG-S, Tryon, and (USA) will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Senior Jumping High Performance Director fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the selection period. From the date of selection, all squad members must immediately inform the Senior Jumping High Performance Director and Team Veterinarian(s) 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 Senior Jumping High Performance Director reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of the Senior High Performance Director on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

5.7 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Senior Jumping High Performance Director may undertake regular evaluations as to the combinations standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their form. Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, Senior Jumping High Performance Development Manager and medical professionals may be utilised by the Senior Jumping High Performance Director, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the High Performance Director.

5.8 Furthermore, the Senior Jumping High Performance Director 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, or any other performance related matter in which the HPD considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the WEG-S, Tryon, (USA).

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Senior Jumping High Performance Director 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 Senior Jumping High Performance Director to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at camps, events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Senior Jumping High Performance Director 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 Senior Jumping High Performance Director 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 WEG-S.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Senior Jumping High Performance Director on a case by case basis.

SECTION VII REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 7.1 An athlete shall be removed from squad selection (individual or team) non- travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries by the Senior Jumping High Performance Director pursuant clause 3.7, 4.6, 5.6, 5.8 & 6.4 above;
- 7.2 An athlete may be removed from squad shortlisting & 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 Sport Panel;
- i. Notification of an adverse analytical finding following on from testing pursuant to the FEI & HSI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules & FEI & Sport Ireland Human Anti-Doping Protocols;
 - ii. Violation of the FEI & HSI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules & FEI & Sport Ireland Human Anti-Doping Protocols;
 - iii. Violation of the FEI Hypersensitivity Protocol;
 - iv. Violation or alleged violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations, HSI General Rules and/or Policies;
 - v. Violation or alleged violation of the HSI Code of Conduct;
 - vi. Any action which could damage the reputation of the Sport or the Country;
- 7.3 The Senior Jumping High Performance Director reserves the right to refer any matter outlined in 7.2 above to the Horse Sport Ireland Sport Panel for determination.
- 7.4 A decision of the Horse Sport Ireland Sport 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.

SECTION IX APPEALS

- 9.1 An eligible athlete who fails to be selected for a team/squad place pursuant to the process and criteria set out in this policy, may appeal against omission from the team/squad 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 Senior Jumping High Performance Director 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;
- 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, **please see [Appendix 4]**.
- 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 **72 hours of receipt** by them of the selection decision via phone call from the High Performance Director. 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 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 receipt of the Statement of Appeal, the Respondent (High Performance Director) 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 Board of Horse Sport Ireland 15 May 2018

Appendices Schedule

Appendix 1	Athlete Code of Conduct
Appendix 2	HSI Social Media Policy
Appendix 3	HSI Medication and Anti Doping Control Logbook & Declaration
Appendix 4	Just Sport Ireland Rules
	FEI World Equestrian Games 2018 Qualification Procedures

Key Timelines

TBC	The Senior Jumping High Performance Director will select a squad of five (5) combinations and 2 reserves. The non-travelling reserves will be ranked in order.
TBC	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the WEG-S, pursuant to Article 303 of the FEI Rules for Jumping Championships and Games, effective 1 Jan, 2018;
17 – 19 July	Pre-Export Testing (Health Certificates) to be completed and sent to BOSE Laboratory Germany for analysis. *** Cut-off date 19 July 2018
19-21 July	Selected WEG Squad horses will run at [event to be confirmed] unless expressly exempted by the Senior Jumping High Performance Director.
TBC	All selected athletes to submit the Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration (Appendix 3) to the Team Veterinarian.
TBC	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI.
TBC	WEG- S Exit Camp, venue TBC
12 th September 2018	Squad Horses depart WEG-S Exit Camp and travel to Liege, BEL for charter flight to Greenville-Spartanberg, international airport, USA.
12 th September 2018	Horse arrive - GSP 14:20 and travel by truck to Tryon Equestrian Centre, USA
12-15 September 2018	Horses enter Post Arrival Quarantine (PAQ) – Tryon USA. ** Please refer to Equestrian Freight Manual
TBC	Following the first official horse inspection, the IRL championship team of four (4) athletes will be selected;