



## Criteria for the selection of the Youth Squads for the Dressage High Performance Programme 2018

### 1. Nature of the Programme

- 1.1 The purpose of this programme is to provide Ireland's youth dressage athletes with the best preparation within the allocated resources to represent Team Ireland at international and European Championship level. This programme aims to make the best athletes better, through the provision of supports. The Programme also seeks to work closely with athletes, parents/guardians, private coaches and personal management teams to ensure that they are fully involved with the process of trying to improve, progress and ultimately win medals. As a member of the Youth Dressage High Performance Programme ('YDHPP') the athlete and Pony/Horse will receive guidance regarding their specified individual programmes, which incorporates a team focus, coordinated by the Pony/Junior/Young Rider/ CoH Dressage High Performance Team Manager. The programme will benefit from strategic guidance from the Horse Sport Ireland Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Committee. This programme aims to improve the performance of the athlete and pony/horse, as a combination, with the ultimate goal of securing podium finishes.
- 1.2 Where a combination is selected for the Youth Dressage High Performance Programme, the combination will be named on the relevant High Performance Squad. This criteria below sets out the requirements in order to be included on the **respective age category squad**.
- 1.3 Anne-Marie Dunphy is appointed the Youth (Pony/Junior/Young Rider/ CoH) Dressage High Performance Team Manager ("the Team Manager") for 2018.

### 2. The High Performance Youth Dressage Programme

- 2.1 This programme consists of following squads and each Athlete/Pony/Horse combination ("the Combination") is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the respective squad:
  - The High-Performance Elite Pony Squad** - combinations who have competed at CDIP or who have achieved qualification to compete at CDIP level and are aiming to do so in 2018.
  - The High-Performance Development Pony Squad** - combinations training/competing at national level, working towards FEI pony level who, based on assessment/results show potential to progress to International level.

Note: Athletes wishing to progress from **the High-Performance Development Pony Squad to the High-Performance Pony Squad** must achieve the following minimum International qualification as set out in the National to International Qualification Pathway requirements which can be found [here](#)

- The High-Performance Development Pony Reserve list** - athletes competing at affiliated shows, engaging with Dressage Ireland Youth Development Programs in their regions and showing potential for future development will be included on this list. Athletes are encouraged to keep the Team Manager updated on their progress

and results. Subject to a rota basis athletes on this list will be invited to squad training where vacancies allow.

- The Dressage High Performance Junior Squad** – combinations training/competing at advanced medium/FEI junior level, either competing at or aiming shortly for International level.
- The Dressage High Performance Young Rider Squad** – combinations training/competing at Prix St Georges/FEI young rider level, either competing at or aiming shortly for International level.
- The Dressage High Performance Children on Horse Squad – TBC**

2.2 Note: athletes must achieve the minimum standards as set out in the National to International Qualification [pathway criteria](#) to be considered on the Junior/ Young Rider/ Children on Horses Squads.

2.3 The purpose of the squad system is to select the combinations that are developing and have demonstrated an ability to improve, from participating in a High Performance Programme. Athletes, Parents/Guardians, Private Coaches and Personal Management Teams must be committed to:

- Success individually and as a Team Ireland Member;
- Personal bests at targeted competitions;
- Taking ownership of their performances;
- Being willing to make change and develop;
- Commitment to team and to drive best squad culture;

2.4 Selection for Youth Squads, may consist of designated squad assessment days at the beginning of the season.

2.5 The Team Manager reserves the right to remove a combination from any of the Dressage Youth Squads if the combination is deemed to have made insufficient progress through the competition levels (for example a combination who does not meet the targets as set out in their annual athlete plan (without reasonable cause).

2.6 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 Team Manager at training and competitions, where available.

2.7 Athletes are required to inform the Team Manager and HSI Team Vet of any injury or unsoundness of a listed squad Pony/Horse immediately. Non-disclosure of veterinary matters may warrant removal from the squad with immediate effect. The Team Manager in consultation with the HSI Team Vet may request that the squad Pony/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 Pony/horse requires a rehabilitation period that is longer than 8 weeks, the Team Manager reserves her right to remove the athlete combination from the 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 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 CDI level 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 Pony/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 Team Manager and the HSI designated Medical Officer, where appropriate.
- 3.6 Squad Athletes & Parents/Guardians agree not comment publicly on any programme issue or concern he/she may have unless or until it is resolved to the satisfaction of both the Athlete and HSI.
- 3.7 Subject to clause 3.7, Squad Athletes & Parents/ Guardians acknowledge and agree that despite anything else in this Criteria, Squad Athletes will not make or provide adverse public comment on social media, or any other public forum, on any HSI matter related to the Youth Dressage High Performance 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 programme, the Team Manager and Horse Sport Ireland. Further, athletes and parents/guardians are bound by the Horse Sport Ireland Social Media Policy, appended at Schedule 2.
- 3.8 Any change in the selection procedure[s] caused by a change in the FEI Rules will be immediately distributed to the relevant athletes. The 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.
- 3.9 The Team Manager reserves the right to amend and update the criteria for inclusion on any of the Youth Dressage High Performance Squads. 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 criteria 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 Team Manager will support members of the Youth **Dressage High Performance Squads** in the form of official training days (subsidised where possible), one-to-one performance meetings (either at training or at designated competitions) to identify how each Athlete can improve or enhance their respective performance(s).
- 4.2 Squad Athletes & Parents/Guardians must be prepared to work within the High Performance Programme structure and at the discretion of the Team Manager may be asked to submit "training and competition plans".
- 4.3 Once selected for any of the respective High Performance Dressage Youth Squads Ponies/horses may be required to present their horses for a **Veterinary Examination** at the

request of the Team Manager. 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.

4.4 The Team Manager reserves the right to:

- Request all veterinary records pertaining to any squad pony/horse;
- Require a pony/horse to undergo a further Veterinary Assessment at any time;
- Remove the combination from any of the Youth Dressage High Performance Squads upon veterinary advice, if the Team Manager deems appropriate;

**Any questions or queries regarding the Youth Dressage High Performance Programme can be directed to the Team Manager, Anne-Marie Dunphy.**

**The Dressage (Youth & Senior) High Performance Administrator: Susann Killilea [skillilea@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:skillilea@horsesportireland.ie)**

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