



**Horse Sport Ireland  
National to International Pathway Qualification Criteria  
Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) for Senior Dressage 2026**

## **1. Introduction**

The Horse Sport Ireland High Performance Dressage Manager is responsible for authorising participation of Dressage athletes at international competitions. The objective of this criteria is to provide a fair and transparent benchmark as to the performances required and to ensure athletes have the ability to compete competently at international level.

Athletes must be members of and horses registered with Dressage Ireland.

## **2. Specific Pathway Criteria**

All Senior Dressage athletes wishing to be considered for international competitions must have achieved the following results:

**\* To qualify to compete at CDI 3\* (Big Tour)** combinations must achieve two overall scores of minimum 66% in the FEI Grand Prix, or one in the Grand Prix and one in the Grand Prix Special at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different appropriately listed judges ***within 6 months from the date of application***.  
Where a panel of judges officiate there should be one different judge in the two tests.

**\* To qualify to compete at CDI 2\* (Middle Tour)** combinations must achieve two overall scores of minimum 66%, one in the FEI Intermediate A and one in the FEI Intermediate B at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different appropriately listed judges ***within 6 months from the date of application***.  
Where a panel of judges officiate there should be one different judge in the two tests.

**\* To qualify to compete at CDI 1\* (Small Tour)** combinations must achieve two overall scores of minimum 67%, one in the FEI Prix St George test and one in the FEI Intermediate I test at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different appropriately listed judges ***within 6 months from the date of application***.

### **\*To qualify to compete at CDI Young Horse:**

**5 and 6yr olds** - combinations must achieve two overall scores of minimum 75%, in either the FEI Preliminary or Final tests in the relevant age category at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different Young Horse (specific) judges in the current calendar year.

**7yr olds** - combinations must achieve two overall scores of minimum 70%, in either the FEI Preliminary or Final tests at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different Young Horse (specific) judges in the current calendar year.

**For all of the above categories athletes must ensure scores are achieved while compliant with all current FEI tack and equipment regulations for the relevant level and without a whip.**

**Current form at the relevant levels must be shown in the three months prior to international competition.**

**It should be noted that the criteria set out is a minimum requirement. As such, athletes are strongly advised to ensure that their consistency of scores and level of experience at the relevant level are sufficient to uphold the required standard at FEI level.**

The HPM reserves the right to apply discretion where merited in respect of requirements above.

Non IRL athletes

The High Performance Dressage Manager reserves the right to consider athletes who do not fall within the defined categories above, such as athletes who are eligible to compete for Ireland following a sport nationality change or through naturalisation and as such shall decide on the portability of national results and/or international results achieved in another jurisdiction on a case by case basis.

### **3. Application Process**

Once the above criteria is achieved athletes should contact the High Performance Manager, Anne Marie Dunphy and the HP Executive for Dressage, Susann Tschoerner [stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie) to express an interest in competing internationally and submit supporting evidence of results. Once approved, athletes must proceed to register as an athlete with the FEI Registrations Department in Horse Sport Ireland. All relevant information in regards to FEI registrations/FEI recognition cards can be found on the Horse Sport Ireland website: <http://www.horsesportireland.ie/team-ireland/fei-passports/>

Athletes must be members of Dressage Ireland to be able to receive their FEI licence.

FEI registrations need to be in order before any FEI entries can be done, please contact [Brid Marron feireg@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:feireg@horsesportireland.ie) for all FEI registrations/passports.

Once FEI registered, entries are submitted through [horsesource.ie](http://horsesource.ie) and submit the following information to the High Performance Executive: Susann Tschoerner [stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie) :

- \* Name of Horse & Athlete;
- \* Name of event seeking approval for;
- \* Classes at the event;
- \* Confirmation of national results;
- \* All athletes are required to submit an Individual Athlete Performance Plan (IAPP) to the HPM, to include specific proposed CDI's.
- \* The HPM reserves the right to decline a request for a certain event where it's considered the standard of event is not appropriate for the first international appearance. The HPM may suggest a different event for consideration by the applicant athlete.

Subsequent entry applications: The High Performance Dressage Committee will continually review subsequent athlete FEI entry applications taking into account the factors as set out in section 4 below.

#### **4. Loss of Form**

##### **A. On initial grant of permission**

Athlete/horse combinations who proceed to compete at CDI level subsequent to receiving initial permission, will be reviewed by the High Performance Dressage Manager on an ongoing basis from receipt of initial permission. Combinations who have shown a consistent downward trend as set out in the specific pathway criteria (section 2) in their respective categories at international events, will be subject to evaluation by the High Performance Dressage Manager.

##### **B. Ongoing grant of permission**

Following the initial 12 months subsequent FEI licence renewals where an athlete combination has shown a consistent downward trend of scores will be subject to evaluation by the High Performance Dressage Manager.

The High Performance Dressage Manager may consider such performance as under performance, and pursuant to Art 6.2 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules reserve the right to enter or refuse to approve the entry of an athlete to compete at subsequent international events. However, before doing so, the High Performance Dressage Manager will consider all mitigating factors and submissions from the athlete before arriving at their decision. The High Performance Dressage Manager may impose certain conditions as to the level of competition the athlete may compete in order to reconcile the standard of performance required or give a direction as to the competition level and location to be attended.

In the case of non completion/elimination on veterinary/welfare grounds a full performance review and veterinary assessment by the HSI appointed team vet may be required prior to approval for future FEI events. The High Performance Dressage Manager will consider all mitigating factors and submissions from the athlete and findings of the team vet.

#### **5. FEI Registration**

Both athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI in accordance with FEI Article 113 (General Regulations). Horses will need a FEI approved National passport within a FEI Recognition Card, as required for competing in the relevant CDI for which the application is being made and in accordance with FEI Article 137 (General Regulations). All applications for FEI registration must be made through the FEI Registrations Unit in Horse Sport Ireland. Athletes must ensure both athletes and horse are free from prohibited substances in accordance with FEI regulations. All FEI registration/recognition card related information can be found on our website [FEI Passports & Registrations - Horse Sport Ireland](https://www.horse.ie/FEI_Passports_&_Registrations_Horse_Sport_Ireland).

All information with regard to Clean Sport can be consulted on the FEI website: [Main FEI Clean Sport | FEI](https://www.fei.org/clean-sport)

Any questions with regard to the above pathway should be directed to the High Performance Dressage Manager by contacting the High Performance Executive Susann Tschoerner [stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie)

## **6. Variations**

This policy can be amended at any time by the High Performance Dressage Manager in order to fulfil the objective of the Policy, which is to ensure that Team Ireland is represented appropriately on the international dressage stage.

In the event that the HPDM is of the opinion, that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in national or international rules, regulations and agreements, and 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 and the High Performance Dressage Manager shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

Ends/

**Updated 23/01/2026**