



**Horse Sport Ireland
National to International Pathway Qualification Criteria
Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) for Youth Dressage P/J/YR/Ch/U25
2026**

1. Introduction

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

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

2. Specific Pathway Criteria - Youth Dressage

- To qualify to compete at CDIP/J/Y/COH level combinations must achieve THREE overall scores of minimum 68%, ONE in the FEI Team test, ONE in the FEI Individual test and ONE in either test at the relevant level at affiliated national competitions in Ireland or abroad in front of two different appropriately listed judges within 12 months from the date of application.
- U25 - three overall scores of minimum 66% in Inter 11, Short GP/GP at affiliated national competitions in Ireland or abroad in front of two different appropriately listed judges within 12 months from the date of application.

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 of minimum 66% to be shown in the 3 months prior to international shows.

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 will identify key national and international events at which youth combinations may compete to become eligible for team selection.

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

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@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 for all FEI registrations/passports.

Once FEI registered, entries are submitted through horse source.ie and submit the following information to the HP Dressage Executive Susann Tschoerner 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 Youth Dressage HPM, to include specific proposed CDI's.
- The Youth Dressage 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 HPM 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 on an ongoing basis by the HSI Youth Dressage HPM. 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 HPM.

B. Ongoing grant of permission

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

The HPM 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 HSI Youth Dressage HP Manager will consider all mitigating factors and submissions from the athlete before arriving at their decision. The HPM 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 the findings of the team vet.

5. FEI Registration

Both athlete and horse must be registered with 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 (athlete and horse) are free from prohibited substances in accordance with FEI regulations.

All information with regard to Clean Sport can be consulted [HERE](#). Any questions with regard to the above pathway should be directed to the Dressage High Performance Committee by contacting the HP Dressage Executive Susann Tschoerner stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie

6. Variations

This policy can be amended at any time by the HPM. The HPM reserves the right to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objective of the Policy, which is to ensure that Team Ireland is represented on appropriately on the international dressage stage.

In the event, that HPM 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 HPM shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

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