



HORSE SPORT
IRELAND



SENIOR HIGH PERFORMANCE DRESSAGE



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THE SENIOR HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME 2026

The objective of the Horse Sport Ireland Senior Dressage High Performance Programme is to provide Ireland's top dressage athletes with the best preparation within the allocated resources to represent Team Ireland at International level, and ultimately Championships and Olympic Games.

Incorporating the LA2028 Roadmap, the High Performance Programme seeks to identify talented athletes, work with them and their personal management team to ensure that all are fully involved with the process of developing the full potential of the combinations for their overall benefit and the success of the programme. This High Performance structure, operating alongside the HSI Youth Dressage HP Programme, enables the long term development of a robust pathway which seeks to:



- Broaden the athlete base, promote participation and drive results
- Increase strength and depth at FEI level
- Assist the conversion of youth athletes to senior ranks
- Promote the capabilities of combinations who are tracking toward elite level, team selection, Championships and Olympic Games



INFORMATION CONTACTS



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SENIOR HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUADS 2026

Athletes are selected for High Performance squads under the following criteria:



GRAND PRIX SQUAD

Combinations competing at FEI Big Tour level, with championship MER, or tracking towards.



GRAND PRIX EMERGING SQUAD

Emerging Grand Prix talent with results at national level (Intermediate 11/GP) indicating international potential.



SMALL TOUR SQUAD

Combinations competing at FEI Small Tour level.

The squads are reviewed quarterly, the HPM reserves the right to add additional athlete/horse combinations at any time

SENIOR DRESSAGE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



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From 2026 athletes who are intending to compete at FEI level are required to submit an Expression of Interest for the HSI High Performance Programme for the coming year, outlining their FEI level of competition - 1/2/3*, 4/5*, CDIO, Championships, horse details, current level competition and scores. Squads will be announced once applications are reviewed and IADP submitted by the athlete.



HP PROGRAMME SUPPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Athletes are offered mentoring by the HPM on an ongoing basis throughout the year at performance contact days, athlete seminars/HP camps, yard visits, competition preparation/test riding opportunities, competition observation days, online team meetings, Anti Doping/Clean Sport training. Athletes proving elite potential may receive targeted supports consistent with their ability. Own coaches are always invited to engage and discuss training, development and IADP's.

1

The primary focus will be on athletes who demonstrate commitment to the programme, to personal fitness and an ability to maintain a structured training and competition plan as required for success at international level. Athletes are required to devise and submit an Individual Athlete Development Plan (IADP) which, for guidance should include, but is not limited to:

- Short, medium and long term training schedule.
- Short, medium and long term competition schedule - national and international (please note CDI entries will not be approved unless documented in the IADP and agreed with the HPM).
- Management of non riding skill development resources/ coaches - physical fitness, psychology, nutrition, lifestyle management.
- Results analysis, score projections, trends. Use of data analysis tools.
- Equine management strategy - veterinary, farriery, dentistry, physiotherapy.
- Event planning, equine logistics.
- Business modelling, sponsorship, media management.

2

Athletes are required to communicate effectively and in a timely manner with the Dressage High Performance Manager, updating on training progress, competition results and any changes to the IADP. It should be noted that athletes are encouraged to discuss their Individual Athlete Development Plan (IADP) with the Dressage High Performance Manager at the start and throughout the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the Dressage High Performance Manager to formulate particular plans for athletes, but to provide technical guidance. It is only the athlete and their personal management team who are in a position to make an informed decision on their IADP based on the combinations requisite competency and skill at that time.

3

Athletes can be moved to a different squad depending on performance training indicators, competition results and commitment to the programme. Athletes can be removed from the programme if it is deemed their commitment is not sufficient to maintain progress. This is to ensure places on the programme are utilised appropriately. However, before any such decision is taken the athlete will be invited to submit any mitigating factors for consideration before a final decision is made.

4

Athletes are required to keep the HPM informed of any changes to the soundness/ health status of their horses named on squads. Athletes and owners should be aware that the HPM may ask for horses on the programme to be assessed by the HSI appointed team vet where an opinion is required, in particular prior to specific events or team selection

NATIONAL TO INTERNATIONAL PATHWAY QUALIFICATION CRITERIA



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This criteria sets out the qualification process for athletes to transition from national to international level. It should be noted that this criteria is a minimum requirement. As such, athletes are strongly advised to ensure their scores and level of experience at the relevant level is sufficient to uphold the required standard at international level.



HSI CODES

All athletes must sign up to the following:

- HSI Athlete Code of Conduct
- HSI Social Media Policy
- HSI Equine and Human Anti Doping Rules
- FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horses