



HORSE SPORT
IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy
FEI European Young Rider and U25 Dressage Championships
CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D Budapest Region Pilisjaszfalu (HUN)
6th - 12th July 2026

SECTION I TIMELINES

The selection timelines for the **CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D Budapest Region Pilisjaszfalu (HUN)** are as follows:

25th May 2026	The Youth Dressage High Performance Manager publishes the long list of athlete/horse combinations under consideration for Nominated Entries for the FEI Young Rider & U25 European Dressage Championships 2026.
8th June 2026 (TBC)	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries (Young Rider and U25 combinations) to the FEI for the CH-EU-Y-D/U25-D Budapest Region Pilisjaszfalu (HUN) pursuant to FEI General Regulations Art.116.2.2
On or before 11th June 2026	The Youth Dressage High Performance Manager announces the final selected Athlete/Horse combinations in the Young Rider and U25 categories, in alphabetical order. The YDHPM may select a squad of (4) four athletes OR a maximum of two (2) individual athletes in each category arising out of their performances throughout the season 2025 & 2026. In addition to the four (4) squad athletes as detailed above, 2 combinations in each category may be named as non-travelling reserves. Note: All Athletes should note that the number of athletes selected for CH-EU-Y-D/U25-D Budapest Region Pilisjaszfalu (HUN) is discretionary on the part of the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager regardless of FEI requirements taking into account all factors for the Youth Dressage High Performance Programme for 2026.
22nd June 2026 (TBC)	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI.

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 FEI Dressage European Championship YR athletes and horses must in the first instance have attained (as a combination) one final percentage score of minimum 64% in a Young Rider Team or Individual Competition Test at a CDIY, including the 2025 European Championships YR, from 1st January 2025 until the date of nominated entries (FEI MER). In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 FEI Dressage

European Championship U25 athletes and horses must have attained (as a combination) one final percentage score of least 64% in an Intermediate II or Grand Prix 16-25 Test at a CDIU25, including the 2024 FEI Dressage European Championship U25, from 1st January 2025 until the date of nominated entries.

- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Young Rider/U25 Dressage Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team to ensure that the athlete/horse combination meets the required level for selection.
- 2.3 Thereafter, Y/U25 Dressage Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team should be mindful that the criteria as stated above, is only a **MINIMUM** requirement.
- 2.4 An athlete may compete in CDIs and Championships for Young Rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the year in which he reaches the age of twenty one (21). An athlete may compete as a U25 Rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of twenty five (25).

SECTION III RESPONSIBILITES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of all Young Rider/U25 Dressage Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team to be fully cognisant of the current [FEI Rules for Dressage](#) and the [FEI Clean Sport policy](#).
- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the principles of the following:
 - i. FEI General Regulations;
 - ii. FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse;
 - iii. [HSI & 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 and Policies;
 - v. The Horse Sport Ireland '*Athlete Code of Conduct*' and act in a manner that does not bring Team Ireland Equestrian into disrepute, please see **Appendix 1** attached;
 - vi. The Horse Sport Ireland '*Social Media Policy*', please see **Appendix 2** attached;
- 3.3 Prompt communications with the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the High Performance Youth Dressage Programme are required throughout the season.
- 3.5 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour.
- 3.6 All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official HSI Team Ireland Equestrian kit while participating at the **CH-EU-Y-D/U25-D in Budapest Region Pilisjaszfalu (HUN)**.
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland High Performance Youth Dressage Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager and/or Horse Sport Ireland can request that a Horse be made available for inspection by the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request.

- 4.2 Athletes must notify the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent;
- 4.3 The Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager 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 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 horses 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. Athletes, (at their own expense), are to consider any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, in consultation with the horses regular Private Treating Veterinarian. 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 Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager.
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a log book for their horses in which they must record all products, treatments, supplements used on or given to their horse from selection date on **11th June 2026** until the first vet inspection on **06 July 2026**. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this log book at any time. Athletes are required to submit this log book together with the Medication and Anti Doping Control Declaration (**Appendix 3**) to the Team Veterinarian on or before **22nd June 2026** in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.6 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 Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager. This is a mandatory requirement to ensure that squad horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.
- 4.7 For the purposes of section IV, the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager reserves her 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 by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the **CH-EU-Y-D/U25-D Budapest Region Pilis-jaszfalu (HUN)**. The decision of the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

Young Rider and U25

- 5.1 Pursuant to Art. J-16.2 of FEI Dressage Rules 2021, An NF may enter one (1) team. Each team is composed of three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses or four (4) Athletes and four (4) Horses. Alternatively, An NF which cannot send a team may enter one (1) or two (2) individual Athletes, each with one (1) Horse.
- 5.2 For 2026, The Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager in her absolute sole discretion may select individuals to compete at the CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D. Further, the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager will decide on the number of athletes who will be entered, regardless of the MER achieved by Young Rider and U25 athletes. **Athletes who have competed at a minimum of TWO CDIY/U25 AND achieved a final score of minimum 66% in either the team or individual test at a CDIY/U25/GP between 09/06/2025 and 08/06/2026 will be considered eligible for selection.**
- 5.3 For the CH-EU-Y-D/U25-D, individual or team places shall be selected by the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager in her sole and absolute discretion, considering the

general measures as set out in Art.5.19 – 5.22 to achieve the best possible result at the CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D.

General Measures

- 5.4 Without in anyway limiting the discretion of the Youth Dressage High Performance Manager, the following measures will be considered in the context of the selection of the team or individual places for Young Rider and U25 categories.
- 5.5 Further, the below measures will also be considered when selecting (if applicable) athlete/horse combinations that will be named as non-travelling reserves in order. All reserves selected should be available (if necessary) to step in to the squad up until the departure date for the Championships.
- 5.6 In assessing the performances of combinations, the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager will consider the following competition measures:
- i. The scores achieved in each class from national and international events campaigned at during 2025 and 2026.
 - ii. In addition the HPM may nominate a mandatory selection event to performance test the athletes prior to the selection date of 11th June 2026. This event will determine current form and fitness of the combinations.
 - iii. The final placing of the Combination (note that the score and the placing of each Combination will be considered but do not automatically position one Combination above another for selection purposes)
 - iv. Athletes based outside of Ireland will compete at designated key events as identified by the Dressage High Performance Youth Team Manager.
- 5.7 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager will give consideration to general measures. These general measures include, but are not limited to:
- i. Past performances and present form of the combination.
 - ii. The suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas at **Budapest Pilisjaszfalu (HUN)** and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D (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, their personal responsible 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;
 - x. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve an individual medal) may be a consideration and may, in the Dressage High Performance Manager's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination;

- xi. Strong commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland Youth Dressage High Performance Programme;
- 5.8 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured this place is wholly dependent on the athlete/horse combination **maintaining fitness, form and soundness.**
- 5.9 The soundness of the Horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the **CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D Budapest Region Pilisjaszfalu (HUN)** will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the selection period. From **11th June 2026** all selected squad members must immediately inform the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager and Team Veterinarian 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 Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.
- 5.10 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager may undertake regular evaluations as to the combination's standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the competition and their form (as a combination and on other horses). Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, support personnel may be utilised by the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager.
- 5.11 Furthermore, the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager shall have the authority to remove a selected horse/athlete combination from the squad or as a reserve, where the selected and/or athlete has not maintained their fitness, standard of performance, form or any other performance related matter in which the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the **CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D Budapest Pilisjaszfalu (HUN)**
- 5.12 Athletes/personal management teams should note that the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager reserves the right not to accept an athlete combination where the athlete combination has not maintained form. The Youth Dressage Team Manager will consider form of such athlete combinations who have secured a place up to and including the date of selection for the Championships. The Youth Dressage Team Manager will apply the general measures criteria to such athlete combinations.
- 5.13 High Performance Squad training will be held at various times and dates throughout the season. Once the squad has been selected after 11th June 2026 training will commence for selected squad athletes.
- 5.14 Consideration will be given to circumstances surrounding any non- completion of events, including elimination, retirement or withdrawal, whether recent or historic. The High-Performance Manager will assess such circumstances having regard to all relevant mitigating factors and submissions from athletes and may determine the weight, if any, to be attributed to such circumstances.
- 5.15 Where Young Rider/U25 athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams decide to pursue European selection, individuals must take into account horse welfare considerations when training and competing their respective horses. Athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management team should not compromise a horse's welfare for the sake of selection. The Youth Dressage High Performance Manager may deem any indication of such action contrary to the principles of the HSI High Performance Programme and FEI rules.

- 5.16 Young Rider/U25 athletes are encouraged to discuss their Individual Athlete Development Plan (IADP) with the Youth Dressage High Performance Manager at the start and throughout the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the Youth Dressage High Performance Manager to formulate particular plans for Young Rider/U25 Athletes, but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Athlete, their persons responsible and/or 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.

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager may, in her 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 Youth Dressage High Team Performance Team Manager to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager 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 Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager reserves her 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 the CH-EU-Y-D/CH-EU-U25-D.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager 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 Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager pursuant clause 3.7, 4.7, 5.24, 5.26 & 6.4 above;
- 7.2 An athlete may be removed from squad 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 Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager 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, applicable FEI Sport Rules. Dressage Ireland Rules as presently known and understood. However, Horse Sport Ireland enjoys exclusive jurisdiction over this Selection Policy. This athlete selection policy is 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.

Any queries with regard to the above athlete selection policy can be directed to the Youth Dressage High Performance Team Manager, Anne Marie Dunphy info@equiproconsulting.ie or Susann Tschoerner Dressage HP Administrator stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie /ENDS

Appendices Schedule

Appendix 1	Athlete Code of Conduct
Appendix 2	HSI Social Media Policy
Appendix 3	HSI Medication & Anti-Doping Declaration & Logbook

<https://www.horsesportireland.ie/governance/hsi-codes/>

Close of nominations for EC date 08/06/2026 (4 weeks before EC), timelines will be updated on publication of Official FEI Schedule

Athlete Selection Policy updated 10 February 2026.