



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy FEI Pony Rider European Eventing Championships, 29th July – 02nd August 2026 CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)

SECTION I TIMELINES

The selection timelines for the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)** are as follows;

1.1	June 2026 date TBC	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries (18 combinations) to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA) , pursuant to Article 501.3.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules, 2026;
1.2	Nominated Entry date TBC	Cut-off date for MER
1.3	08th July 2026	6 squad athletes will be selected – 2 from the points table see Appendix 1 & Section V - the next 4 athletes will be selected as per Section V
1.4	08th July 2026	In addition to the 6 squad athletes as detailed above, the non- travelling reserves will be selected;
1.5	July 2026 date TBC	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI;
1.6	Wednesday 29th July 2026	following the first official horse inspection, the IRL championship team of 4 athletes will be selected;

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and ponies wishing to compete at the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)** must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with Annex H 1.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules;
- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Pony Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team to ensure that the athlete/pony combination has the required MER for the level of the Championship. In this case the MER for the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)** is ONE CCIP2*-L/S OR ONE CCI2* L/S as a combination, pursuant to Annex H 1.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules;

- 2.3 Thereafter, Pony Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team should be mindful that the MER as stated above, is only a MINIMUM requirement;

SECTION III RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Pony Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Eventing 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. FEI & HSI 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;
 - 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;
- 3.3 Prompt communications with the High-Performance Manager, Team Coaches, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Pony High Performance Programme are required throughout the season;
- 3.4 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour;
- 3.5 All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official HSI Team Ireland Equestrian kit while participating at the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)**;
- 3.6 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland Pony High Performance Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If an athlete is not contributing to this, the High-Performance Manager reserves their right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The High Performance Manager and/or Horse Sport Ireland can request that a pony 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 High Performance Manager of any change in their ponies health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent;
- 4.3 The High Performance 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 pony at any time, for the purposes of testing for prohibited substances, and/or as part of an assessment of the ponies 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 ponies 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 ponies being considered for selection. Athletes, (at their own expense), are to consider any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, in consultation with the ponies 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/pony combination from selection by the High Performance Manager.

- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a logbook for their ponies in which they must record all products, treatments, supplements used on or given to their pony from 08.07.26 until the first vet inspection on 29th July 2026. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this logbook at any time. Athletes are required to submit this logbook to the Team Veterinarian before 29th July 2026 in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.6 For the purposes of section IV, the High-Performance 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 pony is deemed unsound by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)**. The decision of the HPM on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Pursuant to the 2026 FEI Eventing Rules, a team of 4 athlete/pony combinations, and 2 individual athlete/pony combinations are authorised to take part in the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)** for 2026.
- 5.2 In order to retain a squad place for the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L** athletes must be seen at a viewing event.
- 5.3 **Viewing events for selection 2026**

Events where points will be allocated – see points table Appendix 1

- 4th April Tyrella 2 - EI110P – subject to balloting
- 12th April Lisgarvan– EI110P – subject to balloting
- 22nd – 26th April Ballindenisk International– CCIP2S
- 20th – 24th May Millstreet International – CCIP2S
- 5th July Clonmahon – EI110P – subject to balloting

All combinations wishing to be considered for selection are expected to compete at Clonmahon 5th July unless expressly excused by the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager.

ALL combinations must show **form at International Level** during 2026 prior to selection, this allows for participation in other international events (other than the those listed above).

- 5.4 Where Pony athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams decide to pursue European selection, such individuals must take into account horse welfare considerations when running their respective ponies. However, Pony athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management should not compromise a ponies welfare for the sake of selection. The High Performance Manager may deem this contrary to the spirit of the Pony HP Programme.
- 5.5 Pony athletes are encouraged to discuss their competition plan with the High Performance Manager at the start and during the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the High Performance Manager to verify particular plans for Pony Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Pony Athlete, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams who are in a position to make an informed decision on their competition plan based on the combinations requisite competency and skill at that time.

- 5.6 Where an athlete is in a privileged position of having two ponies going forward for selection, the High Performance Manager reserves the right to choose which pony will travel to the championships, based on general measures set out in 5.1, 5.16, 5.17, 5.18, 5.19 & 5.20 below;
- 5.7 Following arrival in Le Mans and on the completion of the first official horse inspection, the Pony Eventing High Performance Team Manager will select the four combinations to compete for Ireland in the team competition from amongst the six that travel as part of the squad.
- 5.8 The combinations placed 1st and 2nd on the points table after the conclusion of Clonmahon 5th July will "win" their space on the travelling squad of 6. The next 4 squad places shall be selected by the High Performance Manager and the selection panel to achieve the best possible result at the CH-EU-J-CCI2*-L, Le Mans (FRA).
- i. In the case where combinations finished level on accumulated points using the system set out in Appendix 1, the combinations finishing position in the last leg in Clonmahon 5th July EI110P will determine their final ranking compared to the other combinations that finish on the same accumulated score. If a combination does not compete in Clonmahon 5th July EI110P they will be considered to have finished behind all those who did compete there for the purposes of resolving a tie in the accumulation of points as set out above.
 - ii. In the event that a points scoring competition is cancelled the HPM will endeavour to select an alternative event, this will be communicated to all parents/guardians
 - iii. If the combination placed wither first or second cannot travel to the European Championships for any reason the space does not automatically go to the combination next placed on the points table, the HPM and the selection panel will select an alternative combination to travel
 - iv. At the International events listed on the points table it is the combinations placing in the class that determines their points, not solely their position against other IRL pony combinations
 - v. For the avoidance of doubt the top 2 successful combinations from the points ranking system will be allocated places on the travelling squad of up to six combinations.
 - vi. In the event that an athlete places 1st and 2nd on the points table with 2 different ponies the team manager will have a discussion with the athlete, parent/guardian and owners as to which will travel, the second pony will be a direct reserve and in this scenario the combination placed 3rd on the points table will "win" a space on the travelling squad of 6.
- 5.9 The Pony Eventing High Performance Manager will then select the next 4 athlete/pony combinations based on their performances at any of the

identified key events' as set out in section 5.3 above and/or any other national or international events throughout the 2026 season.

- 5.10 Without in any way limiting the discretion of the High Performance Manager, the following measures will be considered in the context of the selection of 4 squad places.
- 5.11 Further, the below measures will also be considered when selecting the 2 athlete/pony combinations that will be named as non-travelling reserves in order. All reserves selected should be available (if necessary) to step into the squad up until the departure date for the Championships.
- 5.12 In assessing the performances of combinations, the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager will consider the following competition measures:
- i. The final score (across all three phases of the competition);
 - ii. The scores achieved in each individual phase; and
 - 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)
- 5.13 In assessing the performance of combinations, the High-Performance Manager will give consideration to general measures. These general measures include, but are not limited to:
- i. Past performances and present form of the athlete and pony combination at EI110P level.
 - ii. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the cross-country course and the arenas at Le Mans (FRA) and for the unexpected conditions of the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L**, (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 Pony and/or Athlete to perform under the stress and pressure of a FEI Championships;
 - viii. the ability of the Athlete, their persons responsible and/or their personal management team to prepare their Pony 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 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 High Performance (HP) Programme;
- 5.14 Where Pony athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams decide to pursue selection, such individuals may wish to discuss their particular competition plan with the High Performance Manager at the start and during the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the High Performance Manager to verify particular plans for Pony Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Pony Athlete, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams who are in a position make an informed decision on their competition plan based on the combinations requisite competency and skill at that time.
- 5.15 On completion of the first official horse inspection, the High Performance Manager will select the four athlete/pony combinations, which in her sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible team result at the Pony European Eventing Championships.

General Measures

- 5.16 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured as stated above, this place is wholly dependent on the athlete/pony combination maintaining fitness, form and soundness.
- 5.17 The soundness of the pony to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)** will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the pony may have both historically and throughout the selection period. From 08th all selected squad members must immediately inform the High Performance Manager and Team Veterinarian of any illness or injury (however minor). Where it becomes apparent that a squad pony is unsound, and/or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of the HPM on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.
- 5.18 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager may undertake regular evaluations as to the combinations standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their form over three disciplines (as a combination and on other ponies). Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, Team Coaches, and medical professionals may be utilised by the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the High Performance Manager.
- 5.19 Furthermore, the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager shall have the authority to remove a selected pony/athlete combination from the squad or as a reserve, where the selected pony and/or athlete has not maintained their fitness, standard of performance, form over three disciplines or any other performance related matter in which the HPM considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the **CH-EU-P-CCIP2*-L, Le Mans (FRA)**.
- 5.20 High Performance Development & Squad training will be held at various times and dates throughout the season. Once the squad has been selected on 08.07.25 training will commence for those 6 squad athletes and reserves. All combinations named on the squad and non- travelling

reserves are expected to take part in all squad training following naming and prior to travel.

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Pony Eventing High Performance 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 High Performance Manager to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Pony Eventing High Performance 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 Pony Eventing High Performance 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-P-CCIP2*-L**.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Pony Eventing High Performance 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 High Performance Manager pursuant clause 3.7, 4.6, 5.19, 5.20 & 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 of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations and HSI General Rules;
 - 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 Pony High Performance 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 and applicable FEI Sport Rules as presently known and understood. 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 Pony Eventing High Performance Manager, Debbie Byrne debbiebyrne71@icloud.com or Aileen Cartwright, Pony HP Administrator acartwright@horsesportireland.ie

ENDS

Appendices Schedule

Appendix 1	Points Table for Ponies 2026
Appendix 2	Athlete Code of Conduct 2026
Appendix 3	Social Media Policy 2026
Appendix 4	HSI Medication and Anti Doping Log Book