Athlete Selection Policy
FEI Young Rider European Eventing Championships, 26th – 30th August 2026
CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L, Segersjö (SWE)

SECTION I TIMELINES

The selection timelines for the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*L, Segersjö (SWE)** are as follows;

1.1	**July 2026**	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries (18 combinations) to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L**, **Segersjö (SWE)**; pursuant to Article 501.3.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules, 2026;
1.2	**03rd August 2026**	6 squad athlete/ horse combinations will be selected - the 6 athletes/ horse combinations will be selected as per Section V, arising out of their performances throughout the season;
1.3	**03rd August 2026**	In addition to the 6 squad athletes/ horse combinations as detailed above, 2 combinations will be named as non- travelling reserves;
1.5	**August 2026 Date TBC**	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI;
1.6	**26th August 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 horses wishing to compete at the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L**, **Segersjö (SWE)** must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with Article 521 of the FEI Eventing Rules;

2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Young Rider Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team to ensure that the athlete/horse combination has the required MER for the level of the Championship. In this case the MER for the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L**, **Segersjö (SWE)** is ONE CCI3*-L as a combination, pursuant to Article 521 of the FEI Eventing Rules;

2.3 Thereafter, Young Rider 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 RESPONSIBILITES

3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Young Rider 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 Young Rider 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-YR-CCI3*-L**, Segersjö (SWE).

3.6 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland Young Rider 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 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 High Performance Manager of any change in their horse's 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 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 horse's 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 High Performance 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 the date of selection until the first vet inspection on 26th

August 2026. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this log book at any time. Athletes are required to submit this log book to the Team Veterinarian before 23rd August 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 the 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-YR-CCI3*-L**, **Segersjö (SWE)**. 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/horse combinations, and 2 individual athlete/horse combinations are authorised to take part in the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L**, **Segersjö (SWE)** for 2026.

5.2 In order to retain a squad place for the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L**, athletes must attend regular training sessions organised by the HPM. Athletes should also attend at least one viewing event where possible.

5.3 **Viewing events for selection 2026**

- 4th April Tyrella 2 - EI115
- 12th April Lisgarvan– EI115
- 22nd – 26th April Ballindenisk International– CCI3L/S
- 27th – 31st May Bicton CCI3L/S
- 5th July Clonmahon – EI115
- 22nd – 26th July Millstreet CCI3*S

The HPM will be looking for consistency in performances at 3* level showing a high level of competency in dressage & SJ & the ability to run competitively across the country at the required speed.

ALL combinations must show competitive form at International Level during 2026 prior to selection, this allows for participation in other international events (other than the three listed above) to accommodate college/school exams.

It is recommended that all horses already qualified do a 3*L preselection.

If combinations wish to compete at national EI120, it is the choice of Young Rider Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team. Advice can be sought from the Young Rider HP manager, but it is ultimately the responsibility of Young Rider Athletes, their and/or their personal management team.

If an athlete cannot attend any of the above stated selection events, due to their base not being in Ireland, they must contact the HP manager and discuss their plans for the season and their reasoning behind it.

For combinations to compete at CNC National 3*/4* level they must meet the necessary Eventing Ireland Qualifications.

5.4 Where Young Rider 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 horses. However, Young Rider athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management should not compromise a horse's welfare for the sake of selection. The High Performance Manager may deem this contrary to the spirit of the Young Rider HP Programme.

5.5 Young Rider athletes are encouraged 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 Young Rider Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Young Rider 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 horses going forward for selection, the High Performance Manager reserves the right to choose which horse 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 Segersjö and on the completion of the first official horse inspection, the Young Rider 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 **6** squad places shall be selected by the High Performance Manager in their sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible result at the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L Segersjö (SWE).**

5.9 The Young Rider Eventing High Performance Manager may select 6 athlete/horse 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 anyway limiting the discretion of the High Performance Manager, the following measures will be considered in the context of the selection of 6 squad places.

5.11 Further, the below measures will also be considered when selecting the 2 athlete/horse combinations that will be named as non-travelling reserves. 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 Young Rider 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 horse combination.
ii. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the cross country course and the arenas at Segersjö (SWE) and for the unexpected conditions of the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-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 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 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 Young Rider 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 Young Rider Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Young Rider 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/horse combinations, which in his sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible team result at the Young Rider European Eventing Championships.

5.16 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured as stated above, this place is wholly dependent on the athlete/horse combination maintaining fitness, form and soundness.

5.17 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the **CH-EU-YR-CCI3*-L**, **Segersjö (SWE)** will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Young Rider Eventing High Performance Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the selection period. From the date of selection 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 horse is unsound, and/or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the Young Rider 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 Young Rider 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 horses). Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, Team Coaches, and medical professionals may be utilised by the Young Rider Eventing High Performance Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the High Performance Manager.

5.19 Furthermore, the Young Rider Eventing High Performance Manager shall have the authority to remove a selected horse/athlete combination from the squad or as a reserve, where the selected horse 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-YR-CCI3*-L, Segersjö (SWE).**

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 03rd August, training will commence for those 6 squad athletes and the reserves.

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Young Rider Eventing High Performance Manager may, in his 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 Young Rider 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 Young Rider Eventing High Performance Manager reserves his 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-YR-CCI3*-L**.

6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Young Rider 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 Young Rider 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 Young Rider Eventing High Performance Manager, Debbie Byrne debbiebyrne71@icloud.com or Aileen Cartwright, Young Rider HP Administrator acartwright@horsesportireland.ie

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Appendices Schedule

Appendix 1	Athlete Code of Conduct
Appendix 2	Social Media Policy 2026
Appendix 3	HSI Medication and Anti Doping Log Book