



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

2026 Eventing High Performance Squad Selection Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the framework for the identification, support, progression, and selection of Irish eventing athletes and horse combinations capable of:

- Achieving championship team medal performances
- Delivering top individual placings at Olympic Games, World Championships, and European Championships
- Sustaining consistent success at senior international level

Selection is made at the discretion of the Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) Eventing Selection Panel, in accordance with this policy.

2. Guiding Principles

Selection decisions will be:

- Performance-led and evidence-based
- Focused on championship medal potential
- Guided by horse welfare and long-term performance sustainability
- Made in the best interests of the Irish team
- Applied consistently, fairly, and transparently

3. Squad Structure

HSI Eventing operates four squads forming the High Performance Pathway.

Squad	Focus	Typical Level
High Performance Squad	Combinations with immediate championship medal potential	4*-5*
High Performance Development Squad	Emerging combinations progressing toward senior championships	3*-L to 4*
Recognition Squad	Combinations demonstrating performance at 3* level progressing toward 4*	3*
Under 25 Squad	Developing athletes building toward senior level	2*-3*

Selections are made annually and formally reviewed every six months. Athletes or combinations may be added or removed at any time.

3.1 Warning Period

Where a combination no longer meets squad expectations, a six-month warning period may be issued to allow performance or readiness issues to be addressed before removal.

4. General Eligibility (All Squads)

Athletes must:

1. Be an Irish citizen or otherwise eligible to represent Ireland under FEI nationality rules
2. Hold a valid Irish passport where required for championship participation
3. Be registered within the FEI system
4. Have no outstanding liabilities to HSI
5. Not be subject to suspension under HSI, FEI, or WADA regulations
6. Be compliant with human and equine anti-doping rules
7. Sign the relevant HSI Athlete or Squad Agreement when required
8. Adhere to the HSI Code of Conduct and team standards

To be eligible for championship selection, athletes must be members of either the High Performance Squad or High Performance Development Squad at the time of selection and have achieved the relevant FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) as a combination.

5. High Performance Squad

Objective

To prepare and support combinations capable of contributing to championship teams and delivering medal performances.

Performance Indicators

Selectors will consider:

- Consistent competitive performances at *CCI4-S or above**
- At least one completion at *CCI4-L or CCI5*** within the previous 18 months
- Demonstrated ability to achieve a finishing score of approximately 33 penalties or better at 4* or higher level
- Proven cross-country jumping reliability at 4*
- Consistent dressage and showjumping performance
- Demonstrated ability to perform under pressure in strong international competition
- Horse soundness, durability, and suitability for championship formats
- Positive engagement from athlete, owners, and support team
- Willingness of the rider and owner(s) to make the horse available for selection

Championship and 5* experience will be considered a strong indicator of readiness.

6. High Performance Development Squad

Objective

To develop combinations with the capacity to progress to senior championship level.

Performance Indicators

Selectors will consider:

- Competitive results at *CCI4-S** and/or successful performances at *CCI3-L**
- Clear progression toward *CCI4-L**
- Reliable cross-country performances at 3*-L / 4*-S
- Developing showjumping consistency
- Evidence the combination is trending toward a finishing score of approximately 33 penalties at 4* level
- Upward performance trajectory and horse suitability for long-format competition

7. Recognition Squad

Objective

To monitor and support combinations demonstrating competitive performance at 3* level and showing progression toward 4*.

Performance Indicators

- Competitive completion at CCI3* level
- Evidence of progression across all phases
- Potential for advancement to High Performance Development level
- May include newly established combinations showing strong potential

8. Under 25 Squad

Objective

To develop talented athletes capable of progressing to 4* level and future senior championship participation.

Eligibility

Athletes must be under 25 years of age at the time of selection in accordance with FEI criteria.

Selection Indicators

- Strong performances at *CCI3-S* or *CCI3-L***
- Demonstrated technical progression across all phases
- Evidence of readiness to progress toward 4*

Athlete Attributes

- Coachable and performance-focused
- Professional and self-reliant
- Positive contributor to team culture
- Demonstrates resilience, commitment, and work ethic
- Developing a pipeline of future horses

9. Additional Selection Considerations (All Squads)

Selectors may also consider:

- Horse health, soundness, and welfare history
- Age, temperament, and travel suitability
- Compatibility with championship environments
- Quality of support team and management
- Athlete conduct and professionalism
- Suitability for likely championship tracks and conditions

10. Medical and Veterinary Requirements

HSI may require veterinary examinations, performance monitoring, blood testing, or rider medical assessments at any time.

Failure to comply may result in removal from a squad or loss of selection eligibility.

11. Athlete Commitments

Selected athletes are expected to:

- Attend agreed training sessions, camps, and reviews
- Follow agreed performance and competition plans
- Maintain regular communication regarding horse health and training
- Participate in performance monitoring processes
- Sign and comply with Squad Agreements where required

12. De-selection

A combination may be removed from a squad where there is:

- Loss of horse or rider fitness
- Sustained decline in performance level
- Failure to demonstrate progression
- Breach of Squad Agreement or Code of Conduct
- Conduct bringing HSI into disrepute

13. Selection Panel

The HSI Eventing Selection Panel will comprise:

- Independent Chair
- Eventing High Performance Manager
- Independent Selector(s)
- Veterinary and/or medical advisors (non-voting)

All panel members will declare conflicts of interest prior to selection decisions.

14. Appeals

Appeals may be lodged only on the grounds that:

1. The selection process was not followed in accordance with this policy, or
2. The decision was unreasonable or irrational based on the information available

Disagreement with performance judgement alone will not constitute grounds for appeal.