



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy FEI Pony European Jumping Championships, CH-EU-P-S, Le Mans (FRA) 29th July - 2nd August 2026

SECTION I TIMELINES

The selection timelines for the CH-EU-P-S, P Le Mans, (FRA) are as follows:

1.1	National Viewings	Youth Jumping Manager Denis Flannelly will be in attendance at the following CSIOP Competitions to view pony/athlete combination(s) in competition: → Cavan Equestrian Centre 07/03/26 → The Meadows 21/03/26
1.2	CSIOP Competitions 2026	Youth Jumping Manager Denis Flannelly will be in attendance at the following CSIOP Competitions to view pony/athlete combination(s) in competition: → CSIOP Opglabbeek (BEL) 31/03/26 - 05/04/26 → CSIOP Compiegne (FRA) 15/04/26 - 19/04/26 → CSIOP Zuidwolde (NED) 26/05/26 - 31/05/26 → CSIOP Hagen (GER) 10/06/26 - 14/06/26
1.3	May 8th - 10th Mullingar Equestrian Centre	Phase 1 EU-CH Selection 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' Top Ten (8) placed Combinations plus up to two (2) Combination's progress to Phase 2 EU-CH Selection The two (2) additional combinations (if selected) will be at the sole discretion of the Youth Jumping Selection Panel.

1.4	Phase 2 EU-CH Selection	<p>→ 5 Combinations participate CSIOP Zuidwolde (NED) 31/03/26 -05/04/26</p> <p>→ 5 Combinations participate in CSIOP Hagen (GER) 10/06/26 - 14/06/26</p> <p>In the event of additional places becoming available the selection committee will revert to the rider ranking in the EU selection Trial.</p> <p>The selection of the event for each combination is at the discretion of Pony Jumping HP Team Manager.</p>
1.5	FEI Nominated Entries (TBC)	<p>Approximately 4 weeks before CH-EU Schedule yet to be published</p> <p>Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries. European Squad Shortlist (10 combinations) to the FEI, pursuant to Article 22 of the FEI Jumping Rules. Please note nominated entries are ranked alphabetically.</p>
1.6	Phase 3 EU-CH Selection	<p>Five (5) championship squad places shall be allocated by the Youth Jumping Selection Panel to achieve the best possible result at the CH-EU-P-S.</p> <p>In addition to the (5) squad athletes as detailed above, (2) combinations will be named as non-travelling reserves.</p>
1.7		<p>Official Squad Training</p> <p>Horse Sport Ireland submits the Definite Entries to the FEI</p>

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the CH-EU-P-S, Le Mans (FRA) must be mindful of the following eligibility requirements:
- 2.1.1 An Athlete may compete as a Pony Rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 12 until the end of the year in which he reaches the age of 16.
 - 2.1.2 All Pony athletes must be registered as IRL athletes for 2026, notwithstanding Art. 119.3.1 of the FEI General Regulations, 2026 which states that a 'A minor athlete who is a citizen of more than one country can choose each calendar year in which he wishes to represent'.
 - 2.1.3 Athletes must be jumping competently at a height comparable to what is expected at CH-EU-P-S level.
 - 2.1.4 Pony Owners must ensure that their Pony holds a Lifetime Certificate or is within the FEI Pony Measuring Transition System or alternatively has the benefit of the FEI Pony Measuring Derogation for 2023. To check status, please confer with the FEI Database

SECTION III RESPONSIBILITES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Pony Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Jumping, specifically Annex XI Rules for Pony Riders and the FEI Clean Sport policy.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of each Pony Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team to be fully cognisant of the FEI Veterinary Regulations, including but not limited to Chapter IX, Pony Measuring.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Prompt communications with the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, the Youth Athlete Liaison, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Pony Jumping High Performance 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 Horse Sport Ireland team kit, including but limited to athlete clothing, equine clothing, stable apparel while participating at the CH- EU-P-S.
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland Pony Jumping High Performance Programme is to build a high performance culture within the squad. If a Pony Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team are not contributing to this, the Pony Jumping High Performance Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.
- 3.8 The specific aim of this Policy is to select a team capable of achieving a podium at the FEI Pony European Championships.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The Pony Jumping 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 Pony Jumping 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 Pony Jumping 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/Persons Responsible (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/persons responsible, (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 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 Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager.
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a logbook for their Pony in which they must record all products, treatments, supplements used on or given to their Pony. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this logbook at any time. Athletes are required to submit this logbook together with the Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration (Appendix 3) to the Team Veterinarian on or before Date TBC in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.6 For the purposes of section IV, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team 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-P-S. 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 Jumping Rules, a team of four (4) athlete/pony combinations, and one (1) individual athlete/pony combination are authorised to take part in the CH-EU-P-S, (pursuant to Art 22, 'Continental Jumping Championships', Annex IX of the FEI Jumping Rules, 2026.
- 5.2 To retain a squad place for the CH-EU-P-S, the following shall be the selection pathway for 2026.

Phase 1 EU-CH Selection

'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' : Venue: Mullingar Equestrian Centre

- 5.3 Horse Sport Ireland will host a specific 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' for the purposes of shortlisting up to 10* athlete/pony combinations for Phase 1 of the EU-CH Selection.

5.3.1 Eligibility

- To be eligible to enter EU-CH Pony Selection Event, Ponies must have a valid FEI Pony Measuring Certificate.

- All pony combinations who have jumped in a 1.25/130m 148cm class are eligible to enter the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event'. However, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, in consultation with the Selection Panel, reserves the right to exclude any combination from participating at any stage where it is deemed, on health and safety or pony welfare grounds, that the combination is being over-faced or placed at undue risk.
- Entries for the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' should be made with) hdevlin@horsesportireland.ie in Horse Sport Ireland before close of business 5pm on Wednesday 6th May. The entry fee of €250 is payable in advance. This covers entries and stabling for the duration of the event.

5.3.2 Competition Format

The 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' will be held in Mullingar Equestrian Centre, The following will be the competition format.

Date	Class	Ranking System
<p><u>Friday 8TH May</u></p> <p>3.30pm Ponies must be on site.</p> <p>4.00pm Trot Up followed by course walk</p> <p>6.00pm Table A - Main Arena</p>	<p>"Table A" competition (1.25m) Speed FEI Rules Apply Start time 6.00pm</p> <p>Ponies must be presented for Trot up in a bridle.</p>	<p>For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' Ranking System, all athlete combinations are required to jump and their placing will determine their starting order for the 'Nations Cup' style competition on Saturday.</p>
<p><u>Saturday 9th May</u></p>	<p>'Nations Cup' style competition Two (2) Rounds (1.30-1.35m) FEI Rules Apply Start time 9.00am</p>	<p>For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection, all athlete combinations are required to jump both rounds.</p>

<p><u>Sunday 10th</u> <u>May</u></p>	<p>Pony Grand Prix For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Trial' all combinations are required to jump in the Pony Grand Prix (1.30m) Start time 9.00am</p>	<p>For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' Ranking System, all combinations are required to jump in the Pony Grand Prix.</p> <p>If there's a tie in penalties after the Grand Prix, the athletes placing in the Table A Competition will be used to determine their final placing in the selection event.</p>
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5.3.3 Veterinary & Stabling

- a. Ponies must present for trot up at 4pm on Friday 8th May 2026, passports must be made available for inspection, Ponies must have up to date vaccinations.
- b. In addition, it is compulsory for ponies who are competing in the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' to go into secure stabling for the Friday and Saturday night of the event. 24-hour Stable security will be provided.
- c. Entry to the stables will be restricted.
- d. All ponies competing in the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' will be stabled in
 - a. the same stabling area and schooling carefully supervised.
- e. Ponies must arrive in Mullingar Equestrian Centre and be in the secure area no later than 3.30pm on Friday 8th May and remain on the grounds continuously from this time through the completion of the event.
- f. Ponies are only permitted to school in the designated rings at the appointed times under the supervision of the on-site event steward.

5.3.4 Inclement Weather, Force Majeure, or Other Extenuating Circumstances prior to/during the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event'

In the case of inclement weather, force majeure, or other extenuating circumstances prior to or during the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event', the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, in consultation with the Show Committee and the Selection Panel, reserves the right to:

- a. Adjust the course, including its length, track, and/or fence dimensions;
- b. Reschedule the event in terms of time, date, and/or location;
- c. Cancel the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' in its entirety;
- d. Determine whether any rounds already completed shall be carried forward to a rescheduled event or whether the event shall be recommenced de novo (i.e., from the beginning).

Any such decisions shall be made with due consideration for fairness, athlete preparation, and pony welfare.

- 5.4 The top eight (8) placed pony/athlete combinations at the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' will automatically progress to Phase 2 of the EU-CH Selection Process. In addition, up to two (2) further combinations may be selected to progress, as determined by the Selection Panel.
- 5.5 The Selection Panel reserves the right to invite up to two (2) additional combinations from the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' who did not place in the top eight (8). These selections are not guaranteed and will be made solely at the discretion of the Panel. In making these decisions, the Panel will consider the assessment criteria outlined in clauses 5.15 and 5.16. The names of any additional selected combinations will be announced on a date to be confirmed.
- 5.6 Top Ten (8) placed Combinations plus up to two (2) Combination's progress to Phase 2 EU-CH Selection. The selection of the event for each combination is at the discretion of Pony Jumping HP Team Manager.
- 5.7 In the event an athlete qualifies more than one (1) pony in the top ten placing, athletes will only be permitted to progress to Phase 2 EU-CH with a maximum of two (2) ponies. In the event, an athlete qualifies three (3), the Pony Jumping Team Manager shall select the two ponies which will progress to Phase 2 EU-CH.

Phase 2 EU-CH Selection

- 5.8 European Pony Squad – Short List HSI NATIONS CUP EVENTS - 10 INVITED
- 5.8.1 For the avoidance of any doubt, the ten (10) * combinations, (8) of which are the top 8 (8) ranked combinations after the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' plus up to two (2) combinations at the discretion of the Pony Jumping HP Team Manager shall comprise the European Pony Jumping Squad 2026 short list.
- 5.10.2 Phase 2 of the EU-CH Selection allows the Pony Jumping HP Team Manager view the 10 (10) combinations. Therefore, in order to progress to Phase 3 of the EU-CH Selection, combinations will be requested to compete at either.
- 5 Combinations participate CSIOP Zuidwolde (NED) 26/05 - 31/05/26
 → 5 Combinations participate in CSIOP Hagen (GER) 10/06 - 14/06/26
- 5.10.3 The selection of the event for each combination is at the discretion of Pony Jumping HP Team Manager.
- 5.10.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the combinations respective placing or position in the classes during the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' event or above mentioned Nations Cup events does not have an automatic bearing on the final selection (Phase 4 EU-CH Selection) for the Championship squad of five (5) combinations plus two (2) non-travelling reserves.

Phase 3 EU-CH Selection

- 5.11 On a date to be confirmed, five (5) athlete/pony combinations will be selected for the Championship squad to represent Ireland at the 2026 FEI Pony European Jumping Championships (CH-EU-P-S). These selections will be made by the Youth Jumping Selection Panel, taking into account the recommendation of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, whose role is to provide performance insight and strategic input. The final decision shall rest with the Youth Jumping Selection Panel and is not subject to appeal.
- 5.12 Without in any way limiting the discretion of the Selection Panel, the following factors may be considered when selecting the five (5) Championship squad combinations:
- a. Results and performances at designated national and international observation events;
 - b. Consistency of performance at or above 1.30m level;
 - c. Competition readiness and form of the athlete/pony combination;
 - d. Veterinary status and soundness of the pony;
 - e. Strength of the partnership and capacity to deliver under team conditions;
 - f. Professionalism, conduct, and adherence to the HSI High Performance Programme and Code of Conduct;
 - g. Overall contribution to the team strategy and medal potential.
- 5.13 In addition, the Selection Panel will also select two (2) athlete/pony combinations to be named as non-travelling reserves, in order of priority. The same considerations outlined in Section 5.12 may apply. All named reserves must remain available and prepared to step into the squad up to the official departure date for the Championships.
- 5.14 In assessing the performances of combinations through Phase 2-3 of the EU-CH Selection, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider the following competition measures:
- i. The consistency of results across competition types.
 - ii. The final placing of the Combination (note that the score and the placing of each Combination at particular events will be considered but do not automatically position one Combination above another for selection purposes).
- 5.15 In assessing the performance of combinations, through Phase 2-3 of the EU-CH Selection, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel 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;
 - ii. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas at Le Mans, FRA

- and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU-P-S, (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 personal 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 Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination.
 - xi. Strong commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland Pony Jumping High Performance (HP) Programme.

- 5.16 Athletes should note that pursuant to Art 22.7.2 of the FEI Jumping Rules, a substitution of a team member by the fifth pair (Athlete/Pony) may only be allowed in case of an accident or illness either to one of the four team Athletes or to one of the four Ponies, provided the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager obtains the approval of the Ground Jury. Such substitution may be made up to one hour before the start of the first round of the Team Final.
- 5.17 As a condition of selection, all selected athletes will be required to stay in the designated team hotel. This is a mandatory requirement in order to build and maintain team spirit.
- 5.18 Further, all squad members are expected to stay and support the team at the CH-EU-P-S.

General Measures – Applicable Phase 2-4 EU-CH Selection

- 5.19 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured, this is wholly dependent on the athlete/pony combination maintaining fitness, form, and soundness.

- 5.20 The soundness of the Pony to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU- P-S, will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Pony Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team must keep the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the Pony may have both historically and throughout the selection period.
- 5.21 From (Date TBC) 2026, the ten (10) * combinations must immediately inform the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager and Team Veterinarian of any illness or injury (however minor). Where it becomes apparent that a Pony is unsound, and/or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team 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.
- 5.22 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager may undertake regular evaluations as to the combination's standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their form (as a combination and on other horses). Any advice provided by the Team Veterinarian, and support personnel, may be utilised by the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager.
- 5.23 Furthermore, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team 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, 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-S.
- 5.24 Selected athletes will be required to travel to High Performance training before the European Championships.

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, in consult with the Youth Jumping Selection Panel 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 Pony Jumping High 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 Pony Jumping 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 Jumping Selection Panel 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-P-S.

- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Pony Jumping 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 Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager pursuant clause 3.7, 4.6, 5.20, 5.22 & 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 A decision of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager pursuant to 7.1 and 7.2 above is final and binding.

SECTION VIII DISCLAIMERS

- 8.1 These procedures are established in accordance with the FEI General Regulations, the relevant FEI Discipline-Specific Rules, and applicable national policies, as currently known and understood. This Athlete Selection Policy reflects the most up-to-date information available to Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) at the time of publication. However, it is acknowledged that unforeseen or intervening circumstances may arise, and the policy may not address every possible contingency.
- 8.2 Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at any time, where such amendment is deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the policy. Amendments may be made in response to changes in FEI or national rules, the identification of a drafting error or oversight, or for any other reason considered to be in the best interests of Horse Sport Ireland. HSI shall not be held liable for any consequences arising from such amendments.

SECTION IX GOVERNANCE AND PANEL AUTHORITY

- 9.1 The Youth Jumping Selection Panel is responsible for all final athlete and horse selections, removals, and related decisions under this policy. The Panel acts upon the recommendations of the Youth Jumping High Performance Team Manager, Team Veterinarian, and other designated advisors. Decisions that are operational in nature, including fitness or veterinary compliance matters, may be taken by the Team Manager but must be notified to the Panel for retrospective endorsement.

In the case of Force Majeure (Section VI), the Youth Jumping Selection Panel shall consult the Panel where time permits. Final decisions under these circumstances shall be jointly documented.

Any queries with regard to the above athlete selection policy can be directed to the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, Denis Flannelly dflannellyatkill@gmail.com or Youth Athlete liaison Elizabeth Brennan lizbrennanequestrian@gmail.com

ENDS

Appendices Schedule

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