



# HORSE SPORT

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## IRELAND

**Athlete Selection Policy**  
**FEI European Jumping Championships for Young Riders, Juniors and Children**  
**Hagen (GER) 12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026**  
**CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-Ch-S**

### SECTION I TIMELINES

#### 1.1

	The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will select the athletes who will achieve the best possible result at the FEI European Jumping Championships for Young Riders, Juniors and Children On Horses.
<b>22/06/2026</b>	FEI Nominated Entries Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries to the FEI. Please note Nominated Entries are ranked alphabetically.
<b>01/07/2026</b>	Horse Sport Ireland submits the Definite Entries to the FEI.
<b>Date TBC</b>	Final Squad Training

### SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-Ch-S must be mindful of the following eligibility requirements:
- 2.1.1 An Athlete may compete as a Young Rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 16 until the end of the year in which he reaches the age of 21.
  - 2.1.2 An Athlete may compete as a Junior from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 14 until the end of the year in which he reaches the age of 18.
  - 2.1.3 An Athlete may compete in the Children's category from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 14.
  - 2.1.4 All athletes must be registered as IRL athletes, notwithstanding Art. 119.3.1 of the FEI General Regulations, 2018 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'. Please note an Athlete under 18 years of age is defined as a Minor Athlete. (Art.118.4 GR's)

- 2.2 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-CH-S must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with FEI Jumping Rules.
- 2.3 Athletes should note the FEI timeline for Athletes and Horses to achieve the FEI minimum eligibility criteria.
- 2.4 It is the sole responsibility of each 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.
- 2.5 In this case the MER for the CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-CH-S, please note the following FEI Qualification Criteria.
- 2.6 Thereafter, Athletes, their person responsible and/or their personal management team should be mindful that the MER as stated above, is only a MINIMUM requirement.
- 2.7 Athletes must be jumping competently at a height comparable to what is expected at CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-CH-S level.
- 2.8 Athletes, their person responsible and/or their personal management team should familiarise themselves with the most up to date information from the FEI with regard to the CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-CH-S.

### **SECTION III RESPONSIBILITES**

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Jumping, specifically Annex IX for Young Riders, Juniors and Annex XII for Children and the FEI Clean Sport policy.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of each Athlete, their person responsible and/or their personal management team to be fully cognisant of the FEI Veterinary Regulations.
- 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**
  - vi. The Horse Sport Ireland 'Social Media Policy', please see **Appendix 2**
- 3.4 Prompt communications with the Youth Jumping High Performance Team Manager, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the 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 HSI Team Ireland Equestrian kit while participating at the CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-CH-S.
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland Youth Jumping High Performance Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If an Athlete, their person responsible and/or their personal management team are not contributing to this, the Youth Jumping Team 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(s) capable of achieving a medal at the FEI European Championships.

#### **SECTION IV VETERINARY**

- 4.1 The Youth Jumping Team Manager and/or Horse Sport Ireland can request that a horse be made available for inspection by the Team Veterinarian(s) or an appointed Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request.
- 4.2 Athletes must notify the Youth Jumping 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 Jumping 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 horse(s) 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. 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 Team Manager.
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a medication logbook for their horses in which they shall record all products, treatments, foodstuffs, and supplements used on or given to their horse from 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 until the conclusion of the European Championships.
- 4.6 The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this logbook at any time. Athletes are required to submit this logbook **(in strict confidence)** together with the Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration **(Appendix 3)** to the Team Veterinarian for assessment **on or before the FEI Final Definite Entries** in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.7 In the event that treatments and medications are necessary **subsequent** to the submission of the logbook, express approval is required from Team Veterinarian and the Team Manager. This is a **mandatory requirement** to ensure that squad horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.
- 4.9 For the purposes of section IV, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel 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 and/or unfit by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the European Championships. The decision of the Youth Jumping Selection Panel on advice from Team Veterinarian is final.

#### **SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA**

- 5.1 The primary aim of this criteria is to select athlete and horse combination (s) to represent Ireland who will deliver the best possible team result at the European Championships.
- 5.2 The following factors will be taken into consideration:

- 5.2.1 Present form of the horse and athlete up to the date of selection;
- 5.2.2 Past performance (s) of the horse and athlete;
- 5.2.3 The performance of combinations at the identified key events listed below at 5.3 & 5.4;
- 5.2.4 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing at the European Championships.
- 5.2.5 Commitment to the HSI High Performance Junior and Children Jumping Programme;
- 5.2.6 Athlete combinations exhibiting a standard comparable to the level and duration of competition at the European Championships.

### 5.3 **Children on Horses 2026 – Identified Key Events**

#### 5.3.2 **RDS COH Qualifiers 2026**

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by Children athletes at any of the venues designated RDS COH Qualifiers 2026.

##### **Children On Horses**

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by Children athletes:

Mullingar - 03/05/2026  
Barnadown - 17/05/2026  
Maryville - 21/06/2026  
Cavan - 28/06/2026

5.3.3 The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by Children athletes at the designated Nations Cup events listed at 5.4.1 below.

5.3.4 The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by Children athletes at 1.20m and 1.30 national level.

#### 5.3.5 **Children On Horses (COH) - Viewing Event**

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by Children at the EU CH viewing event.

The EU-CH Children On Horses viewing Event will be held in Mullingar Equestrian Centre (Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May) The following will be the competition format.

Date	Class
<p><b><u>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026</u></b></p> <p><b>Arrival 3.00pm - Trot up</b></p> <p><b>6.30pm</b> Main Arena</p>	<p><b>Start time 6.30pm (Class will commence following ponies)</b></p> <p><b>COH - Table A Speed Viewing (1.20/25m)</b></p> <p>Horses must present for trot up at 3pm on Friday 8th May 2026, passports must be made available for inspection, Horses must have up to date vaccinations.</p>
<p><b><u>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026</u></b></p> <p><b>1.00pm</b> Main Arena</p>	<p><b>Start Time 1:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>Nations Cup Style Viewing over two rounds (1.25/30m)</b></p>
<p><b><u>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026</u></b></p> <p><b>1.00pm</b> Main Arena</p>	<p><b>Start Time 1:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>Children On Horses Grand Prix Viewing</b> one round Grand Prix style (1.25/30m)</p>
<p><b><u>Entries</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entries for the EU Ch viewing event can be sent to <a href="mailto:hdevlin@horsesportireland.ie">hdevlin@horsesportireland.ie</a></li> <li>- Entry Fee €250 (Includes stabling and entry to viewing event)</li> </ul>

#### 5.4 Young Rider and Junior - Identified Key Events

RDS Qualifiers 2026

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by athletes at any of the venues designated RDS Qualifiers 2026.

Mullingar - 03/05/2026  
Barnadown - 17/05/2026  
Maryville - 21/06/2026  
Cavan - 28/06/2026

#### 5.4.1 **FEI Youth Nations Cups**

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by athletes at any of the designated FEI Nation Cups events.

<b>FEI Nations Cups Series</b>	
<b>CSIO Oplabbeek (BEL)</b>	31/03/26 - 05/04/26
<b>CSIO Compiègne (FRA)</b>	15/04/26 - 19/04/26
<b>CSIO Zuidwolde (NED)</b>	26/05/26 - 31/06/26
<b>CSIO Hagen (GER)</b>	10/06/26 - 14/06/26

#### 5.4.2 **SJI National Grand Prix League**

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by athletes at any of the venues designated as part of the League.

Barnadown 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Garranemore 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
HHS 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Wexford 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Ballivor 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Cavan 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2026

#### 5.4.3 **Plus Vital Premier Series**

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by athletes at any of the venues designated as part of the SJI Premier Series.

Barnadown 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Mullingar 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026
Cavan 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2026

#### 5.4.5 **FEI CSI Jumping Events**

The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider performances completed by athletes at any of the FEI designated CSI Jumping Events in 2026.

- 5.5 Notwithstanding Art. 5.2 above, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel reserves the right to consider the exceptional ability of a new Combination(s) (and the potential to achieve a team medal) and may, in the Youth Jumping Selection Panel sole discretion, place such a Combination with less ring time ahead of any another Combination.
- 5.6 In assessing the performances of combinations 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 events will be considered but do not automatically position one Combination above another for selection purposes)
- 5.7 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel may give consideration to the following general measures. These general measures include, but are not limited to:
- i. An athlete's form on other horses may also be taken into consideration;
  - ii. The suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas in FEI CH-EU-Y-S CH-EU-J-S CH-EU-Ch-S and for the unexpected conditions of the FEI CH-EU (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, 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.

- 5.8 The Youth Jumping Selection Panel will consider section 5.2.5 in the following guise:
- i. Success individually, and as a Team Ireland Member.
  - ii. Personal bests at targeted competitions.
  - iii. Taking ownership of their performances.
  - iv. Being willing to make change and develop.
  - v. Commitment to team and to drive best team culture.
  - vi. Have personal coaches, individual performance plans, personal fitness structures and horse management programmes in place.
- 5.9 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the FEI CH-EU will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Team 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 squad members must immediately inform the Team Manager and Team Veterinarian(s) 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 Jumping Selection Panel reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of the Youth Jumping Selection Panel on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.
- 5.10 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel may undertake regular evaluations as to the combination's standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their form. Any advice provided by the Team Veterinarian and medical professionals may be utilised by the Youth Jumping Selection Panel, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Youth Jumping Selection Panel.
- 5.11 Furthermore, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel 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, or any other performance related matter in which the Youth Jumping Selection Panel considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the FEI CH-EU.

## **SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE**

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Youth Jumping Selection Panel may, at 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 Team Manager to constitute extenuating circumstances;

- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at camps, events, trials, or other attendances required under this policy must advise the 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 its 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 FEI CH-EU.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Team Manager on a case-by-case basis.

## **SECTION VII REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 7.1 An athlete may be removed from squad selection (individual or team), non-travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries by the Youth Jumping Selection Panel pursuant clause 3.7, 4.9, 5.9, 5.11 & 6.4 above;
- 7.2 An athlete may be removed from squad shortlisting & selection (individual or team), non- travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries for any of the following reasons:
  - 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 Pursuant to Section 7 above, the Team Manager decision 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. The selection criteria are 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 because 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.

## **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

**Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager**, Denis Flannelly  
[dflannellyatkill@gmail.com](mailto:dflannellyatkill@gmail.com)

or Youth Athlete Liaison Elizabeth Brennan [lizbrennanequestrian@gmail.com](mailto: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