



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy
FEI Pony European Dressage Championships, 2019
CH-EU-P-D (Pony Dressage) Strzegom, POL
15 - 18 August 2019

SECTION I TIMELINES

The selection timelines for the CH-EC-P-D Strzegom, POL are as follows;

	8 July 2019	Pursuant to Article P-19.2 of the FEI Dressage Rules 2019, each NF may enter one (1) team of not more than four (4) Athletes and four (4) ponies in the Team FEI Championship. Reserve combinations are not allowed. As such, the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager will select a squad of (four) 4 athletes of which two (2) athletes will have obtained their place on the squad via the 'points ranking system' detailed below, the remaining two (2) athletes ¹⁵ will be selected as per Section V, arising out of their performances throughout the season. In addition to the four (4) squad athletes as detailed above, 2 combinations will be named as non-travelling reserves in alphabetical order.
1.2	15 July 2019 [TBC]	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries (8 combinations) to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the CH-EU-P-D Strzegom POL pursuant to FEI General Regulations Art.116.2.2
1.5	5 August 2019 [TBC]	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI;
1.6	9 August 2019 (TBC)	The IRL European Pony Dressage Team will depart for Strzegom, POL

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the CH-EU-P-D Strzegom, POL must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with the [FEI Dressage Rules, 2019](#).
- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Pony Dressage 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. PLEASE NOTE the following FEI qualification criteria for 2019: In order to qualify for participation at the 2019 FEI European Pony Riders Dressage Championships, athletes and ponies must have attained (as a combination) one final percentage score of at least 62% in a Pony Team or Individual Competition Test at a CDIP including the 2019 Pony Riders Dressage European Championship, from 1st January 2018 until the date of nominated entries.
- 2.3 Thereafter, Pony Dressage Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team should be mindful that the MER as stated above, is only a **MINIMUM** requirement.

- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 All Pony athletes must be registered as IRL athletes for 2019, notwithstanding Art. 119.3.1 of the FEI General Regulations, 2019 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'.
- 2.7 Ponies must meet the definition of a 'Pony' as set out within Chapter IX, Pony Measuring, Article 1082 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations, 2019 which states 'Regulatory Height;
1. Ponies' regulatory height at the withers must not exceed 148.0cm without shoes.
 2. Ponies being measured at FEI Events are given a height allowance; their height at the withers must not exceed 150.0cm without shoes or 151.0cm with shoes'.

SECTION III RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of all Pony Dressage Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team to be fully cognisant of the current [FEI Rules for Dressage](#) 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 Dressage High Performance Team Manager, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the High-Performance Youth Dressage 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-P-D Strezegom, POL;
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland High Performance Youth Dressage Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If an athlete is not contributing to this, the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager reserves her right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The Pony Dressage High Performance Team 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 Pony Dressage 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 Dressage 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 (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 Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager;
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a log book for their Ponies in which they must record all products, treatments, supplements used on or given to their horse from selection date **8 July 2019** until the first vet inspection on **15 August 2019**. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this log book at any time. Athletes are required to submit this log book together with the Medication and Anti Doping Control Declaration (**Appendix 3**) to the Team Veterinarian on or before **31 July 2019** in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.6 In the event that treatments and medications are necessary subsequent to the submission of the log book, express approval is required from Team Veterinarian and the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager. This is a mandatory requirement to ensure that squad Ponies are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.
- 4.7 For the purposes of section IV, the Pony Dressage High Performance Team 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 horse is deemed unsound by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the CH-EU-P-D Strezegom, POL. The decision of the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Pursuant to the 2019 FEI Dressage Rules, a team of four (4) athlete/horse combinations are authorized to take part in the CH-EU-P-D Strezegom, POL for 2019.
- 5.2 **In order to retain a squad place for the CH-EU-P-D athletes who have competed at a minimum two CDIP and who have achieved two final scores of minimum 66% in either the team or individual tests (including the consolation competition where the FEI Pony team or individuals tests are used) between 01/01/2019 and 08/07/2019 will be considered eligible for selection and the following selection system will be in place.**
- 5.3 **2 of the 4** squad places can be 'won' based on a 'points ranking system'. Points will be allocated to athletes based on scoring achieved at the identified key events listed below. Please refer to the points table at **Appendix 4** attached.

- **Any CDIP listed in appendix 5 x 1**
- **Any CDIP listed in appendix 5 x 1**
- **National Winter Championships 6/7 April 2019**
- **Any DI Premier Show/BD PL or HP Show 2019**
- **Marlton 15 May 2019**
- **DI/BD Show TBC 2019**
- **DI/BD Show TBC 2019**

- 5.4 **2 of the 4** squad places shall be selected by the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager in her sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible result at the CH-EU-P-D Strezegom, POL.
- 5.5 The Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager will use the combined results from the team and individual tests at each specified event to count towards the point accumulation. Both scores will be added and then divided for an average.

- 5.6 Non finishers will receive no points for any competition they do not complete irrespective of when they are eliminated or withdraw.
- 5.7 In the event that combinations choose to compete at more than two CDIP up to the date of final nominations, (4 weeks before the trot up for the EU CH) the highest combined overall scores from the team and individual tests of two CDIP's will be counted towards the final score of ranking points.
- 5.8 In the case where combinations finish level on accumulated points using the points ranking system set out above, the combinations highest combined overall score from the team and individual tests in any of the CDIP in which they compete will determine their final ranking compared to the other combinations that finish on the same accumulated points.
- 5.9 It is a matter for each individual rider to maximise their performance in the designated competitions with a view to winning a place on the squad.
- 5.10 Pony athletes are encouraged to discuss their particular competition plan with the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager at the start and during the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager to verify particular plans for Pony Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Pony Dressage 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 combination's requisite competency and skill at that time.
- 5.11 Where an athlete is in a privileged position of having two ponies in the top three places in the 'points ranking system', the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager reserves the right to choose which Pony will travel to the championships, based on general measures set out in 5.1, 5.22, 5.23, 5.24 & 5.25 below;
- 5.12 The cut-off date for the purposes of securing a squad place via the 'points ranking system' will be **7 July 2019**. The CH-EU-P-D official squad will be announced on **8 July 2019**.

General Measures

- 5.13 Without in anyway limiting the discretion of the Pony Dressage High Performance Manager, the following measures will be considered in the context of the selection of **2 of the 4** squad places.
- 5.17 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 in to the squad up until the departure date for the Championships.
- 5.18 In assessing the performances of combinations, the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager will consider the following competition measures:
- i. The scores achieved in each class; and
 - ii. 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)
- 5.19 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Pony Dressage High Performance Team 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.
 - ii. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas at Strezegom and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU-P-D (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 Dressage 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 Youth Dressage High Performance Programme;
- 5.20 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured via the 'Points Ranking System' and Discretionary Selection, this place is wholly dependent on the athlete/pony combination **maintaining fitness, form and soundness.**
- 5.23 The soundness of the Pony to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU-P-D Strezegom (POL) will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the selection period. From 8 July 2019 all selected squad members must immediately inform the Pony Dressage High Performance Team 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 Dressage High Performance Team Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.
- 5.24 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Pony Dressage High Performance 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 over three disciplines (as a combination and on other ponies). Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, support personnel may be utilised by the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager.
- 5.25 Furthermore, the Pony Dressage 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 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-D Strezegom, (POL).
- 5.26 High Performance Squad training will be held at various times and dates throughout the season. Please see appendix 6 attached. Once the squad has been selected after 8 July 2019 training will commence for those four (4) squad athletes, which is mandatory unless expressly excused by the Pony Dressage High Performance Team Manager.

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Pony Dressage High Performance Team 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 Pony Dressage High Team 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 Dressage 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 Pony Dressage High Performance Team 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-D.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Pony Dressage 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 Dressage High Performance Manager pursuant clause 3.7, 4.6, 5.23, 5.25 & 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 The Pony Dressage High Performance Team 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, applicable FEI Sport Rules, Dressage Ireland Rules as presently known and understood. However, Horse Sport Ireland enjoys exclusive jurisdiction over this Selection Policy. This 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 Dressage High Performance Team Manager, Anne Marie Dunphy or Susann Killilea Pony Dressage HP Administrator skillilea@horsesportireland.ie

ENDS

Appendices Schedule

Appendix 1	Athlete Code of Conduct
Appendix 2	HSI Social Media Policy
Appendix 3	HSI Medication & Anti-Doping Declaration & Logbook
Appendix 4	Points Table for Ranking System 2019
Appendix 5	CDIP List of Shows considered for Selection 2019
Appendix 6	Squad Training Schedule 2019

Appendix 4 – Points Ranking System

Percentage %	Any CDIP from appendix 5	Any CDIP from appendix 5	National Winter Championships 6/7 April 2019	Any DI Premier Show/BD PL or HP Show	Marlton 15 May 2019	DI/BD Show TBC 2019	DI/BD Show TBC 2019
72%	24	24	22	22	17	17	17
70%-71.99%	21	21	19	19	14	14	14
68%-69.99%	18	18	16	16	11	11	11
66%-67.99%	15	15	13	13	8	8	8
64%-65.99%	12	12	10	10	5	5	5
62%-63.99%	9	9	7	7	3	3	3
60%-61.99%	6	6	4	4	1	1	1

Note: Pony Combinations should note that 7 July 2019 is the cut-off to earn ranking points.

Appendix 5 - List of Shows

Eligibility for Selection for EC-P-D 2019

To be eligible for selection for the 2019 European Championships for Ponies Strezegom POL combinations must achieve TWO overall scores of minimum 66% in either the team or individual tests at two separate CDIP. Results from the following CDIP's in 2019 are considered for the selection process:

7-10 Feb: Le Mans (FRA)
21-24 Feb: Nice (FRA)
27 Feb-3 Mar: Lier (BEL)
15-17 Mar: Keysoe (GBR)
10-14 Apr: Nieuw En Sint Joosland (NED)
18-22 Apr: Sint Truiden (BEL)
27-28 Apr: Mannheim (GER)
2-5 May: Saumur (FRA)
16-19 May: Compiègne (FRA)
24-26 May: Lipica (SLO)
11-16 June: Hagen (GER)
27-30 June: Exloo (NED)
2-7 July: Leudelange (LUX)
18-21 July Deauville (FRA)

Close of nominations for EU Championships date TBC (normally 4 weeks before EC)

Appendix 5 - Schedule of Squad Training 2019

4/5 January 2019 @ Spruce Lodge
23/24 February 2019 @ Spruce Lodge
25/26 April 2019 @ Spruce Lodge

Additional dates will be added to this schedule once athlete training and competition plans are submitted and compiled.

Athlete Selection Policy updated 27th May – see section 5.2 above.