



**Athlete Selection Policy**  
**FEI Pony European Eventing Championships, 2019**  
**CH-EU-P-CCI2-L, Strzegom, POL**  
**15 - 18 August 2019**

**SECTION I TIMELINES**

The selection timelines for the CH-EU-P-CCI2-L 2019, Strzegom, POL are as follows;

1.2	<b>Monday 10 June 2019</b>	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries (18 combinations) to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the CH-EU-P-CCI2-L, Strzegom, POL pursuant to Article 501.3.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules, 2019;
1.3	<b>Monday 1 July 2019</b>	6 squad athletes will be selected, of the 6 squad athletes listed, 3 athletes will have obtained their place on the squad via the 'points ranking system' detailed below, the remaining 3 athletes will be selected as per Section V, arising out of their performances throughout the season;
1.4	<b>Wednesday 3 July 2019</b>	In addition to the 6 squad athletes as detailed above, 2 combinations will be named as non- travelling reserves;
1.5	<b>TBC</b>	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI;
1.6	<b>14 August 2019</b>	2019 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-P-CCI2-L, Strzegom, POL must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with the [FEI Eventing Rules](#);
- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Pony Eventing 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. [The Pony European Championship will be held at the CCIP2 star level](#). For Championships, Pony Riders and Ponies must have obtained as a combination a Minimum Eligibility result at a **CCIP2-L, CCI2\* Long/Short** pursuant to Annex H Rules for Eventing Pony Rider & Events of the FEI Eventing Rules.
- 2.3 Thereafter, Pony Eventing 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'.
- 2.6 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 RESPONSIBILITES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of all Pony Eventing 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 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 Eventing Pony Eventing High Performance Manager, Team Coaches, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Pony Eventing 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-P-CCI2-L, Strzegom, (POL);
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland Pony Eventing High Performance Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If an athlete is not contributing to this, the Pony Eventing Pony Eventing High Performance Manager reserves her right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.

### SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The Pony Eventing 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 Pony Eventing 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 Pony Eventing 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 Pony Eventing High Performance 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 (01<sup>st</sup> July) until the first vet inspection on 14 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 Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 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 Eventing Eventing High Performance Team Manager. This is a mandatory requirement to ensure that squad horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.
- 4.7 For the purposes of section IV, the Pony Eventing High Performance 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-CCI2-L, Strzegom (POL). The decision of the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

#### SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Pursuant to the 2019 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-P-CCI2-L Strzegom (POL) for 2019
- 5.2 In order to retain a squad place for the CH-EU-P-CCI2-L, athletes have two options available to them, **OPTION A & OPTION B:**

### Option A

- 5.3 **3 of the 6** squad places can be ‘won’ based on a ‘points ranking system’. Points will be allocated to athletes based on placing at the identified key events listed below. Please refer to the points table at **Appendix 4** attached.

- **Ballindenisk CCI2\* for Ponies - S – 19 – 21 April 2019**
- **Tattersalls CCI2\* for Ponies - L – 29 May – 02 June 2019**
- **Kilguilkey CCI2\* for Ponies - S – 28 June – 30 June 2019**

Note: Kilguilkey CCI2\* for Ponies - S – 28 - 30 June 2019 [All nominated entry athletes are expected to compete here unless expressly excused by the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager].

- 5.5 In the case of all of the key events listed at clause 5.3 above, it is the combinations position in the class in line with the ‘points ranking system’ rather than amongst the Pony Eventing athletes in the class, which will determine their point’s allocation, if any.
- 5.6 Where Pony athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams decide to pursue Option A, such individuals must take into account horse welfare considerations when running their respective ponies, Pony Eventing athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management should not compromise Pony welfare by running excessively during the selection period. The Pony Eventing High Performance Manager may deem this contrary to the spirit of the Pony Eventing HP Programme.
- 5.7 Pony athletes are encouraged to discuss their particular competition plan with the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager at the start and during the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager to verify particular plans for Pony Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Pony Eventing 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.
- 5.8 In the case where combinations finished level on accumulated points within the 'points ranking system' set out above, the combinations finishing position in the last leg in Kilguilkey CCI2\* for Ponies - S, 28 – 30 June 2019 will determine their final ranking compared to the other combinations that finish on the same accumulated score.
- 5.9 If a combination does not compete in Kilguilkey CCI2\* for Ponies - S, 28 – 30 June 2019 they will be considered to have finished behind all those who did compete there for the purposes of resolving a tie in the accumulation of points as set out above.
- 5.10 Where an athlete is in a privileged position of having two horses in the top two places in the 'points ranking system', the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager reserves the right to choose which horse will travel to the championships, based on general measures set out in 5.1, 5.22, 5.23, 5.24 & 5.25 below;
- 5.11 Squad places secured via the 'points ranking system' will be officially allocated after Kilguilkey CCI2\* for Ponies - S, 28 – 30 June.
- 5.12 Athletes should note that these rankings will not carry forward to Strzegom (POL). Following arrival in Strzegom and on the completion of the first official horse inspection, the Pony 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.

## Option B

- 5.14 **3 of the 6** squad places shall be selected by the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager in her sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible result at the CH-EU-P-CCI2-L, Strzegom (POL).
- 5.15 The Pony Eventing High Performance Manager may select up to 3 athlete/horse combinations based on their performances at any of the identified key events for the 'points ranking system' as set out in section 5.3 above and/or any other national or international events throughout the 2019 season.
- 5.16 Without in anyway limiting the discretion of the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager, the following measures will be considered in the context of the selection of 3 of the 6 squad places.
- 5.17 Further, the below measures will also be considered when selecting the 2 athlete/horse 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 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)
- 5.19 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Pony Eventing 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 Strzegom and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU-P-CCI2-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 Pony Eventing 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;
- 5.20 Where Pony Eventing athletes, their persons responsible and/or their personal management teams decide to pursue Option B, such individuals may wish to discuss their particular competition plan with the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager at the start and during the season. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the responsibility of the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager to verify particular plans for Pony Eventing Athletes but to provide technical guidance. It is only the Pony Eventing 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.
- 5.21 On completion of the first official horse inspection, the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager will select the four athlete/horse combinations, which in her sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible team result at the Pony Eventing European Eventing Championships.

## General Measures Option A & B

- 5.22 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured via Option A or Option B as stated above, this place is wholly dependent on the athlete/pony combination maintaining fitness, form and soundness.
- 5.23 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU-P-CCI2-L, Strzegom , (POL) will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Pony Eventing Pony Eventing High Performance Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the selection period. From 10 June, 2019 all selected squad members must immediately inform the Pony Eventing 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 Pony 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.
- 5.24 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Pony 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 ponies). Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, Team Coaches, and medical professionals may be utilised by the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Pony Eventing High Performance Manager.

- 5.25 Furthermore, the Pony Eventing 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 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-P-CCI2-L, Strzegom (POL).
- 5.26 High Performance Squad training will be held at various times and dates throughout the season. Once the squad has been selected after Kilgillkey CCI2\* for Ponies - S, 28 – 30 June training will commence for those 6 squad athletes.

## **SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE**

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Pony Eventing High Performance 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 Eventing 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 Pony 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 Pony Eventing High Performance 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-CCI2-L.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Pony 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 Pony Eventing 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 Eventing Pony Eventing 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 Pony Eventing High Performance Manager, Becky Cullen [bcullen@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:bcullen@horsesportireland.ie) or Aileen Cartwright, Pony Eventing HP Administrator [acartwright@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:acartwright@horsesportireland.ie)

ENDS

### Appendices Schedule

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Athlete Code of Conduct
<b>Appendix 2</b>	HSI Social Media Policy
<b>Appendix 3</b>	HSI Medication & Anti-Doping Declaration & Logbook
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Points Table for Ranking System 2019