



Athlete Selection Policy
FEI European Championships
Luhmulhen, GER.
29 August-1 September 2019
Eventing CH-EU-CCI4*-L

SECTION I TIMELINES

9 July 2019	Post Luhmühlen CCI5* - The Senior Eventing High Performance Director will invite the 2019 Euro Squad to attend training on 8/9th July UK or 10 th /11 th July IRL, which will include a Veterinary Assessment.
15 July 2019	The Senior Eventing High Performance Director will select a squad of 6 combinations and 3 reserves. The non-travelling reserves will be ranked in order.
23 July 2019	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the CH-EU-CCI4*-L, pursuant to Article 501.3.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules, 2019;
24-28 July 2019	Selected European Squad horses will run at agreed CCI4*S, unless expressly exempted by the Senior Eventing High Performance Director.
TBC	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI.
TBC	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-CCI4*-L must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with FEI Rules. (1 CCI4*-L MER (CCI3* 2018 competition structure) to be obtained as a combination between 1 January 2018 and 23 July 2019).
- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Athlete to ensure that the athlete/horse combination has the required MER for the level of the Championship.

SECTION III RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Athlete to be fully aware and understand the current FEI Rules for Eventing, FEI Clean Sport policy and all relevant information with regard to the [FEI European Championships 2019](#)
- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the rules & principles of the following:
 - i. [FEI General Regulations & FEI Sport Rules](#);
 - ii. FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse;
 - iii. HIS & [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;
 - v. The Horse Sport Ireland 'Athlete Code of Conduct' please see **Appendix 1** attached;
 - vi. The Horse Sport Ireland 'Social Media Policy', please see **Appendix 2** attached;

- vii. Athletes are ambassadors of equestrian sport, they shall not act in a manner that brings Team Ireland Equestrian into disrepute,
- 3.3 Prompt communications with the Senior Eventing High Performance Director, Team Coaches, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Senior Eventing High Performance Programme are required throughout the season;
- 3.4 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour;
- 3.5 All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official HSI Team Ireland Equestrian kit while participating at the CH-EU-CCI4*-L;
- 3.6 The Senior Eventing High Performance Director has set **25 August 2019** as the last day that athletes can compete before the CH-EU-CCI4*-L unless otherwise instructed by the Senior Eventing High Performance Director.
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland High Performance Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If an athlete is not contributing to this, the Senior Eventing High Performance Director reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The Senior Eventing High Performance Director 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 Senior Eventing High Performance Director of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent;
- 4.3 The Senior Eventing High Performance Director 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 FEI Pre-Arrival Testing 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. 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 Performance Director;
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a medication log book for their horses in which they shall record all products, treatments, foodstuffs and all supplements used on or given to their horse from **1 May 2019** until the conclusion of the CH-EU-CCI4*-L.
- 4.6 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 for assessment **on or before the FEI Final Definite Entries [date to be confirmed]** 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 log book, express approval is required from Team Veterinarian and the Senior Eventing High Performance Director. This is a **mandatory requirement** to ensure that squad horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure. For the purposes of section IV, the Eventing High Performance Director 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 or ineligible by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the CH-EU-CCI4*-L. The decision of the PD on advice from Team Veterinarian is final.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Combinations to be selected will be identified by the Eventing High Performance Director in her sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible team result at the CH-EU-CCI4*-L. Without in anyway limiting the discretion of the Senior Eventing Performance Director, the Performance Director shall consider the following competition and general measures in relation to any combination:
- 5.2 Competition measures:

- i. Selection will be based on performances at CCI4*L & CCI5*L during the 2019 season;
- ii. The Eventing High Performance Director may consider competitive performances which demonstrate improvement throughout the season;
- iii. CCI5* performances may carry more weight than CCI4* performances;
- iv. With regard to the two (2) individual places on the EU -C squad, the Eventing High Performance Director may consider combinations who have progressed from the YR/U25 squads in 2018. Such combinations are required to fulfil the competition & general measures as set out in this policy;
- v. In order to maximise selection chances, combinations should be aiming to achieve at least one result at 4* International level or above of 70% or better in the dressage, zero show jumping penalties and an average cross-country score of no more than 10 penalty points slower than the fastest time in the class, average finishing score of 38 penalties or better;
- vi. The Eventing High Performance Director may take into consideration the following, the final score (across all three phases of the competition), the scores achieved in each individual phase and 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).

- 5.3 Athletes have the option to further maximize their chances of selection by competing at **one** of the following identified key selected competitions in 2019 from the table below:

Lexington (USA) 24-28 Apr 2019	CCI5*L
Badminton (GBR) 1-5 May 2019	CCI5*L
Saumur (FRA) 23-26 May 2019	CCI4*L
Tattersalls (IRL) 29 May – 2 June 2019	CCI4*L
Bramham (IRL) 6-11 June 2019	CCI4*L
Luhmuhlen (GER) 13-16 June 2019	CCI5*L

- 5.4 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Senior Eventing High Performance Director will give consideration to **general measures**. These general measures include, but are not limited to:
- i. Present form of the athlete and horse combination;
 - ii. Past performance of the athlete and horse combination;

- iii. An athlete's form on other horses may also be taken in to consideration;
- iv. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the cross-country course and the arenas in Luhmulhen,GER and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU-CCI4*-L (taking into account the objective of the team and individual competition);
- v. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support team to operate and perform in a FEI championship environment which is highly regulated & pressurised;
- vi. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
- vii. the overall balance of the Combinations that have been selected;
- viii. the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at the highest level of international competition;
- ix. 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;
- x. 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;
- xi. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a team medal outcome may be a consideration;
- xii. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve an individual medal) may be a consideration and may, in the Senior Eventing High Performance Director's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination;

5.5 Strong commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland High Performance (HP) Programme 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;

5.6 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU-CCI4*-L, (GER) will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Senior Eventing High Performance Director 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 Senior Eventing High Performance Director 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 Senior Eventing High Performance Director reserves the right to remove that combination

from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of the Senior Performance Director on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

- 5.7 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Senior Eventing High Performance Director 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 horses). Any advice provided by the Team Veterinarian, Team Coaches, and medical professionals may be utilised by the Senior Eventing Performance Director, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Performance Director.
- 5.8 Furthermore, the Eventing High Performance Director 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, form over three disciplines or any other performance related matter in which the HPD considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the CH-EU-CCI4*-L, Luhmulhen, GER.

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Senior Eventing High Performance Director may, at 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 Eventing High Performance Director to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Senior Eventing Performance Director 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 Senior Eventing High Performance Director 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 Senior Europeans
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Eventing Performance Director 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 Senior Eventing High Performance Director pursuant clause 3.7, 4.6, 5.6, 5.8 & 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 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 decision of the Eventing High Performance Director 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 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.

SECTION IX APPEALS

- 9.1 An eligible athlete who fails to be selected for a team/squad place pursuant to the process and criteria set out in this policy, may appeal against omission from the team/squad selection as set out in this section.
- 9.2 The sole grounds of any appeal are that:
 - the selection process was tainted by unreasonable bias or conflict of interest on the part of the Eventing High-Performance Director; and/or
 - there has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the applicable Selection Policy;
- 9.3 Any appeal under section IX will be dealt with by Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (Just Sport Ireland Limited) <http://sportdisputesolutions.ie/about/>
SDSI is an independent dispute resolution service for Irish Sport.
- 9.4 Appeals will be heard by Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland and otherwise proceed in accordance with the time limits set out below and in accordance SDSI Arbitration Rules for final and binding arbitration. Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland Rules, **please see [Appendix 4]**.
- 9.5 Notice of Appeal:
Any eligible athlete wishing to appeal against their omission from the selection must lodge a Notice of Appeal Form (Appendix A, SDSI Rules), and comply with the requirements as set out in Rule 14 and Rule 57 of SDSI Arbitration Rules. Athletes must submit the completed form within **72 hours of receipt** by them of the selection decision via phone call from the High-Performance Director. Athletes should note that the time limit as set out in SDSI Rules 14.2 (b) does not apply in this instance.
- 9.6 Statement of Appeal:
Within 48 hours after lodging the SDSI Rules, the appellant (the athlete making the appeal) must file a Statement of Appeal as set out in Rule 14.2 (f) & (g) of SDSI Arbitration Rules, Appendix B. Athletes should note that the time limit of (7) days as set out in SDSI Rules 14.2 (f) does not apply in this instance.

9.7 Reply

Within 48 hours from receipt of the Statement of Appeal, the Respondent (High Performance Director) shall file a "Reply Form" in accordance with the provisions of Rule 14.3 (a) & (b) and Rule 57 of the SDSI Arbitration Rules. Athletes should note that the time limit of (14) days as set out in SDSI Rule 14.2 (a) does not apply in this instance.

For approval by the Board of Horse Sport Ireland dated 5 March 2019

Appendices Schedule

Appendix 1	Athlete Code of Conduct
Appendix 2	HSI Social Media Policy
Appendix 3	HSI Medication and Anti-Doping Control Logbook & Declaration
Appendix 4	Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (JSI) Rules
	FEI European Championship Qualification Procedures

