



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy
FEI Dressage European Championships™
Rotterdam, (The Netherlands) 19 - 25 August 2019
EU-CH-D

SECTION I TIMELINES

TBC	Pursuant to the FEI Dressage Rules 2019, Chapter VI Continental and Regional Dressage Championships - Teams - FEI Championship 2.1. Each NF may enter one (1) team of not more than four (4) Athletes and four (4) Horses. 2.2. Four (4) Athletes and four (4) Horses are allowed to take part in the team competition. The HSI Dressage & Para-Dressage Selection Panel will determine the selected athlete combinations on [insert date TBC] who will represent Ireland at the FEI Dressage Championships, Rotterdam.
22 July 2019	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the CH-EU-D pursuant to FEI General Regulations Art. 116.2.2.i.
2 August 2019	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI for Dressage CH-EU-D

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the EU-CH-D must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with Article { } of the Dressage Rules and [FEI Qualification Procedures](#).
- 2.2 Qualification period: **Start: 1st January 2018 End: date of nominated entries.**
- 2.3 In order to qualify for participation at the 2019 FEI Dressage European Championships, athletes and horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least 65% attributed by the Ground Jury and by any two different FEI 5* Dressage Judges, of a nationality other than that of the rider, in a Grand Prix at two different CDI3*/CDI4*/CDI5*/CDI-W or CDIO events during the qualification period.
- 2.4 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 Dressage](#), FEI Clean Sport policy and all relevant information with regard to the [FEI Dressage 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 Dressage & Para-Dressage High Performance Coordinator, Team Veterinarian(s) and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Senior Dressage & Para-Dressage High Performance Programme are required throughout the season.
- 3.4 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness, professional behaviour and good team spirit.
- 3.5 All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official HSI Team Ireland Equestrian kit while participating at the EU-CH-D.
- 3.6 The specific aim of this Policy is to select combinations capable of achieving a podium finish at the EU-CH-D.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 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 Horse Sport Ireland of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent.
- 4.3 The 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. Failure to comply with any request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian may adversely affect a combination in respect of selection.
- 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 June 2019** until the conclusion of the EU-CH-D.
- 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 12 August 2019** 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 Horse Sport Ireland. This is a **mandatory requirement** to ensure that squad horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.
- 4.8 For the purposes of section IV, Horse Sport Ireland 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 EU-CH-D. The decision of Horse Sport Ireland on advice from Team Veterinarian is final.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 SELECTORS

- 5.1.1 All Selectors will be appointed by the Board of Horse Sport Ireland.
- 5.1.2 The Selectors as a panel will have the knowledge and experience required to select combinations and will be free from conflicts of interest. Horse Sport Ireland maintains a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise.
- 5.1.3 All Selectors will have equal voting rights. Decisions must be reached by a majority and with no abstentions (unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest).
- 5.1.4 The Selectors will act throughout as experts and are entitled within this Selection Policy to use their absolute discretion having regard to the criteria set out below. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.
- 5.1.5 The Selection Panel shall comprise of:
 - Selector 1
 - Selector 2
 - Selector 3
 Hereinafter referred to as (“the Selectors”).

- 5.2 The Horse Sport Ireland Dressage & Para-Dressage Selection Panel, (“the Selection Panel”) will take the following criteria into account in making their selection decision and have due regard to the relevant statistical performance evidence available.
- 5.3 The following competition measures will be taken into consideration by the Selection when assessing combinations:

- i. Consistency of scores **over 68%**;
- ii. The results by the horse and athlete combination at the relevant shows in 2018 and 2019 with emphasis on Team and Individual events followed by consideration of those in the Kur.
- iii. The star level of the shows and the star level of the panels of judges;
- iv. The trend in average Team and Individual scores in 2019 & 2018;
- v. Scores in 2018 & 2019 – scores in 2019 will be given greater weight than scores obtained in 2018;
- vi. The overall quality of the start list (determined by FEI rankings of the other athletes and their current form);
- vii. The athlete/horse combination’s experience and ability to cope with the pressures and challenges of the 2019 CH-EU-D will come into consideration.
- viii. Commitment to the HSI High Performance Para-Dressage Programme;

- 5.4 Athletes have the option to further maximize their chances of selection by competing at a minimum of one of the following selected events:

- Le Mans CDI3* 7-10 February 2019
- Nice CDI3* 21-24 February 2019
- Dortmund CDI4* 7-10 March 2019
- Keysoe CDI3* 15-17 March 2019
- Nieuw en Sint Joosland CDI3* 10-14 April 2019
- Saumur CDI3* 2-5 May 2019
- Windsor CDI4* 08-12 May 2019

- Compiègne CDIO5* NC 16-19 May 2019
- Harthill – Bolesworth CDI3* 11-13 June 2019
- Geesteren CDIO5* NC 17-23 June 2019
- Fritzens-Schindlhof CDI3* 28-30 June 2019
- Hartpury CDI3* 3-7 July 2019
- Aachen CDI4* 17-22 July 2019
- Hickstead CDIO3* NC 25-28 July 2019

5.5 In assessing the performance of the Dressage combinations, the 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 in to consideration;
- ii. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support team to operate and perform in a FEI championship environment which is highly regulated & pressurised;
- iii. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
- iv. the overall balance of the Combinations that have been selected;
- v. the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at the highest level of international competition;
- vi. 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;
- vii. 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;
- viii. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a team medal outcome may be a consideration;
- ix. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve an individual medal) may be a consideration and may, in the Selection Panel's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination;

5.6 The Selection Panel will consider section 5.3 (vii) in the following guise:

- Success individually, and as a Team Ireland Member;
- Personal bests at targeted competitions;
- Taking ownership of their performances;
- Being willing to make change and develop;
- Commitment to team and to drive best team culture;
- Have personal coaches, individual performance plans, personal fitness structures and horse management programmes in place;

5.7 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the EU-CH-D, Rotterdam (NED) will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep Horse Sport Ireland 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 Horse Sport Ireland 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, Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of Horse Sport Ireland on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

- 5.8 Prior and subsequent to selection, Horse Sport Ireland 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 advices provided by the Team Veterinarian and medical professionals may be utilised by the Horse Sport Ireland, where required. However, such evaluations will be discretionary.
- 5.9 Furthermore, Horse Sport Ireland 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 HPD considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at EU-CH-D, Rotterdam (NED).

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, Horse Sport Ireland may, at their 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 Horse Sport Ireland to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at camps, training, events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Horse Sport Ireland 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 Horse Sport Ireland reserves the 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 EU-CH-D.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by Horse Sport Ireland 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 Horse Sport Ireland pursuant clause 4.8, 5.7, 5.9 & 6.4 above;
- 7.2 An athlete shall be removed from FEI Nominated Entries, selection (individual or team), non-travelling reserve selection, and/or FEI Definite Entries for any of the following reasons by the Selection 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. Alleged Violation or Violation of the FEI & HSI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication

- Rules & FEI & Sport Ireland Human Anti-Doping Protocols;
- iii. Alleged violation or violation of the FEI Hypersensitivity Protocol;
 - iv. Alleged violation or violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations, HSI General Rules and/or Policies;
 - v. Alleged violation or 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 Selection Panel pursuant to 7.1. and 7.2 above 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 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 Horse Sport Ireland Selection Panel 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.

Ends.

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 Solution Ireland Rules

Key Timelines* dates not yet confirmed by publication of official schedule

1 June 2019	Eligible Athletes to commencing medication and foodstuffs recording within the designated HSI Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration (Appendix 3)
3 -Aug*	EU-CH-D selected athletes to submit the Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration (Appendix 3) to the Team Veterinarian.