



Criteria for the 2020 HP Tokyo Squad, HP Development Squad for the Dressage High Performance Programme

1. Nature of the Programme

- 1.1 The purpose of this programme is to provide Ireland's Dressage athletes with the best preparation within the allocated resources to represent Team Ireland at CDI, CDIO, and European, World and Olympic Championship level. This programme aims to make the best athletes better, develop Dressage High Performance in Ireland. As a member of the Senior Dressage High Performance Programme ('HPP') the athlete will receive guidance regarding their specified individual programmes, which incorporates a team focus, coordinated by the Dressage High Performance Director and Horse Sport Ireland. This programme aims to improve the performance of the athlete and horse, as a combination, with the ultimate goal of securing podium finishes.
- 1.2 Where a combination is selected for the Senior Dressage High Performance Programme, the combination will be named on the relevant HP or Development squad.
- 1.3 The criteria below sets out the requirements in order to be included on the following squads:
 - **2020 HP Tokyo Squad**
 - **2020 HP Development Squad**

2. The 2020 Dressage HP Squads

2.1 2020 HP – Tokyo

Each Athlete/Horse combination ("the Combination") is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the 2020 HP Tokyo squad.

- 2.1.1 Members of this squad are, in principle, combinations who are well established at Grand Prix level and are seeking selection to the Irish Team for the next Major Championship (i.e.) Olympic or World Equestrian Games.
- 2.1.2 The results by the horse and athlete combination at events in 2018, 2019 and 2020 with emphasis on Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special classes followed by consideration of those in the Kur.
- 2.1.3 In principle, the Dressage High Performance Director will apply the following performance criteria when selecting combinations for the **2020 HP Tokyo Squad**; Combinations should be achieving consistent average scores of 68% or above with an increasing trend at Grand Prix level at CDI3* & above, CDI-W's and CDIO's.

Further consideration will be given to:

- i. Consistency of scores over TBC
- ii. The star level of the shows and the star level of the panels of judges;
- iii. The trend in average GP and GPS scores in 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- iv. The overall quality of the start list of events (determined by FEI rankings of the other athletes and their current form);
- vi. Commitment to the HSI High Performance Dressage Programme;



- 2.1.4 The purpose of the squad is to include the combinations that are most likely to represent Ireland at Tokyo Olympic Games and that have demonstrated an ability to improve, from participating in a High Performance Programme and be committed to
- 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;
 - vii. Ownership of the horse must be secured and they must be available to compete for Team Ireland with an IRL Owner.

2.2 2020 HP – Development Squad

Each Athlete/Horse combination (the “Combination”) is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the 2020 HP Development Squad.

- 2.2.1 Achievement of the requisite qualification as set out in the [international pathway criteria](#) to compete internationally and progress to gaining international experience.

- **Senior**

Small Tour: Prix St George/Intermediare 1

Big Tour Grand Prix (2 tests)

Achieved a minimum of 66% at national level in the two classes the athlete (rider/horse combination) is intending to compete in at the international event relevant to the application. The two tests must be judged by two different judges and the results achieved in the six months prior.

- 2.2.2 Athletes who are campaigning internationally and achieving scores of 65% or above and who have the potential to represent Ireland at Championship level in the future with a longer term approach to performance enhancement.

- 2.2.3 Pursuant to 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 above, the achievement of such scores, 66% (nationally) and 65% (internationally) respectively does not automatically guarantee a place on the HP Development Squad. Athlete/Horse combinations will be selected at the discretion of the High Performance Director as emerging talent who have the ability to impact on future HP Squads and Teams.

- 2.2.2 The purpose of the squad is to select the combinations that are developing and have demonstrated an ability to improve and are committed.

3. General criteria



- 3.1 The Dressage High Performance Director is the sole selector of combinations based on results. The Dressage HPD reserves the right to remove a combination from any of the squads listed above, if the combination is deemed to have made insufficient progress or has lost competitive form.
- 3.2 The Squad listings will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.
- 3.3 It must be clear that the Combination is open to improvement and has demonstrated the ability to improve from training, and the support of the HPD, where available.
- 3.4 Combinations that are not currently listed on any of the squads may be invited to join at any time. This invitation will at the discretion of the High Performance Director with consideration given to performances, attention to detail with regard to performance planning, team player orientation and the capability to perform under pressure. The HPD reserves the right to add additional combinations at any time.
- 3.5 Any Dressage Athlete is free to discuss with the HP Director the requirements which they need to achieve to be considered for inclusion on any of the listed squads.
- 3.6 For all listed Squads, meeting these criteria is not a guarantee of selection onto any other squad or team.
- 3.7 Horses must be sound and fit to compete to the satisfaction of the HSI Team Vet or his designate. Athletes and owners must be prepared to submit their horses for fitness assessments by the HSI Team Vet or his designate and to submit a full veterinary history, as requested.
- 3.8 Athletes are required to inform the HPD and HSI Team Vet of any injury or unsoundness of a listed squad horse immediately. Non-disclosure of veterinary matters may warrant removal from the squad with immediate effect. The HPD in consultation with the HSI Team Vet may request that the squad horse be presented for veterinary assessment, at the cost of the athlete. In the event, that the Team Vet is of the opinion that the squad horse requires a rehabilitation period that is longer than 8 weeks, the HPD reserves his right to remove the athlete combination from the squad. The HPD decision is final.
- 3.9 Squad Athletes agree that he/she will not comment publicly on **any issue** or concern he/she may have unless or until it is resolved **to the satisfaction of both the Athlete and HSI**.
- 3.10 Subject to clause 3.9, Squad Athletes acknowledge and agree that despite anything else in this Criteria, Squad Athletes will not make or provide adverse public comment on social media, national print or any other public forum, on any HSI matter related to the High Performance Dressage Programme and/or team to which he/she has been selected, including, but not only, any member of it, selection to it or performance of it. 'Adverse' in this clause means any comment which can be seen to be disparaging of, detrimental or prejudicial to, the Team, the 'HPD' and Horse Sport Ireland. Further, Athletes are bound by the Horse Sport Ireland Social Media Policy, appended at Schedule 1.
- 3.11 Athletes must hold or be entitled to Irish Citizenship.
- 3.12 Any change in the squad selection procedure[s] caused by a change in the FEI Rules will be immediately distributed to the relevant athletes. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to HSI. However, selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.
- 3.13 As such, the criteria can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. In the event, that Horse Sport Ireland is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in the FEI guidelines; 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.

4. Squad Support



- 4.1 The Dressage High Performance Director will support members of the **listed squads** in the form of interval meetings to identify how each Athlete can improve or enhance their respective performance(s).
- 4.2 Athletes must be prepared to work within the Dressage High Performance Programme structure and will be required to submit “training and competition plans” to the High Performance Director, at the time of initial selection to the programme, and subsequently as requested during the year, by the HPD.
- 4.4 Once selected for the **2020 Squads** horses may be required to present their horses for a **Veterinary Examination** at the request of the HPD. Athletes are requested to keep a veterinary log book for their respective squad horses for inspection at any time by the HSI Team Vet or his designate.
- 4.5 The HPD reserves the right to:
 - Request all veterinary records pertaining to any squad horse;
 - Require a horse to undergo a further Veterinary Assessment at any time
 - Remove the combination from any of the 2020 Squads upon veterinary advice, if the HPD deems appropriate;

Any questions or queries with regard to this programme can be directed to

the Senior Dressage High-Performance Administrator Susann Killilea skillilea@horsesportireland.ie