



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Nomination Policy for the Tokyo Olympics Games 2020 Discipline of Dressage

Introduction

This Policy sets out the Horse Sport Ireland process for selecting athletes and horses to:

- a) be considered eligible for nomination for selection;
 - b) be nominated for selection and;
 - c) be selected to the Irish team (“Irish Team”) for Dressage at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.
- In addition to the criteria for eligibility for nomination for selection, there are [minimum eligibility requirements](#) as set out in the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games 24th Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 which the athlete and horse, as a combination need to meet in order to be considered for nomination by the Dressage High-Performance Director (“the DHPD”).
 - The DHPD is the expert technical who nominates an athlete /horse combination for selection.
 - The actual selection of any athlete/horse combination will be made by the Olympic Federation of Ireland (“the OFI”).
 - [Article 629 – Athletes & Horses, Minimum Eligibility Criteria – Dressage.](#)

To be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 Dressage Competitions, all Athletes/Horses must achieve, as a combination, the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) at selected Events which take place from 1 January 2019 until (and including) 1 June 2020 (five (5) weeks before the Tokyo 2020 Sports Entries deadline). Athlete/Horse combination must fulfil the minimum eligibility requirements as described below.

A minimum 66% must be attributed twice to the Athlete/Horse combination by both a 5* star judge and as an average from all judges in the competition, and the score must be achieved in a Grand Prix test at two different CDI3*/CDI4*/CDI5*/CDI-W/CDIO events. The two 5* judges must be of a nationality other than of the Athlete. Scores achieved in Preliminary or Consolation Grand Prix classes judged by three Judges do not count towards the minimum eligibility requirement.

Athletes and Horses must obtain the MER at events which take place from 1 January 2019 until the MER Deadline included.

The list of Olympic Ranking Events and MER Events (as defined in Annex C) for achieving Olympic ranking points / the minimum eligibility requirements will be published on the FEI website: www.fei.org.

The list of Olympic Ranking Events and 2019 MER Events will be published on 15 December 2018 and the 2020 MER Events will be published on 15 December 2019 at the latest.

No additions of Events will be accepted after the publication of the selected Events calendar. Replacement in case of cancellation of Event for force majeure reasons will be reviewed on a case to case basis.

Olympic Athlete/Horse Rankings: will count as of 1 January to 31 December 2019.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER): Athletes and Horses may obtain the MER at events which take place between 1 January 2019 and 1 June 2020 included.

Nomination for Selection

- a) Nominations for selection for the Irish Dressage Team will be made to the OFI as expeditiously as possible on conclusion of the NGB Appeal Process, where initiated.
- b) The OFI is the body which has the power to select an athlete for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.
- c) The OFI agrees to notify Horse Sport Ireland of its selection or its refusal to select any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable after the OFI receives the DHPD nominations.

Section 1 – Key Timelines

The Horse Sport Ireland Olympic nomination process timelines are as follows:

1.1 1st June 2020:

- Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the long list of entries to the FEI, to include a Certificate of Capability for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Pursuant to the FEI Olympic Regulations a maximum nine (9) Athlete and horse combinations; plus, three (3) P Alternate Athletes and 3 Reserve Horse combinations.

2nd June 2020:

- The Dressage High Performance Director nominates the three Athlete/Horse Combinations and three P Alternate Athlete/Horse Combinations (Reserves) in order of preference that will be recommended to the Olympic Federation of Ireland to represent Ireland at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo subject to Section 8.
- The DHPD will contact athletes by telephone call. Thereafter a formal email notification will issue.

1.2 The Olympic Federation of Ireland confirms receipt of the nomination of Athlete/Horse Combinations as submitted. Thereafter, the OFI will either issue Team Ireland Agreements for execution or indicate its refusal to select nominated athlete/horse combinations.

1.3 6th July 2020

- The closing date for Tokyo 2020 Official Final Entries (Tokyo Sport Entry deadline) to the FEI.

1.4 7th – 14th July 2020 IRL Tokyo Exit Camp and Equine Quarantine at Aachen, Germany.

1.5 15th July Departure Horse Flight Le Liege BEL.

1.6 24th July 2020: First horse inspection for Dressage.

Section 2 - Eligibility for Nomination

Athletes and horses to be considered to represent Ireland at the 2020 Olympic Games must comply with the following: -

- 2.1 Citizenship: The athlete must be an Irish citizen and have a valid Irish Passport that does not expire until after 7th February 2021.
- 2.2 All athletes and horses to be considered to compete on the 2020 Olympic Games IRL Dressage Team must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability between January 1, 2019 to date of nominated entries to FEI inclusive, in accordance with the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#) Article 626 of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games,

- 24th Edition, effective for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website.
- 2.3 Athletes participating in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Dressage Competitions must be born on or before 31st December 2004 (sixteen (16) years of age in the year of the Olympics Games), as per the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24th Edition, Article 606.1.2.
 - 2.4 Horses participating in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Dressage Competitions must be born on or before 31st December 2012 (eight (8) years of age in the year of the Olympics Games), as per the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24th Edition, Article 606.2.1.
 - 2.5 Qualified horses must meet the ownership conditions as laid down in Article 606.2.2.1 of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24th Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. Qualified Horses must be registered before **15th January 2020** in the name of an **IRL citizen** holding an IRL passport or body corporate registered in Ireland.
 - 2.6 The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Olympic Games.

Section 3 - Responsibilities

- 3.1 It is each athlete's responsibility to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Dressage and the FEI Clean Sport policy.
- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the following:
 - a) FEI General Regulations, Sport Rules and the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events Tokyo 2019 Olympic Games.
 - b) FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
 - e) The Horse Sport Ireland Athlete Code of Conduct.
 - f) Prompt communications with the Dressage High Performance Director, Team Coaches, Team Veterinarian, Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI High Performance Programme and OFI/IOC Olympic Advance Data Capture requirements and Pedens Official OG Transporter in respect of Equine transport logistics.
 - g) Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour.
 - h) All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official Team Ireland kit while participating at the 2020 Olympic Games.
 - i) Athlete must be prompt in their communications with the Olympic Federation of Ireland in respect of submitting details for purposes of Advanced Data Capture to ensure appropriate accreditation.
 - j) Athletes cannot compete horses other than the horse they are nominated with after 16 July 2020 in advance of the 2020 Olympic Games.

Section 4 – Veterinary

- 4.1 The Dressage High Performance Director and/or Horse Sport Ireland can request that an athlete for inspection by the Team Veterinarian at any time, either during the season before nomination or after nomination and selection by the OFI. Athletes must comply with this request. Athletes must notify the Dressage High Performance Director of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent.
- 4.2 The Dressage High Performance Director and/or Horse Sport Ireland can send the Team Veterinarian and/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.

- 4.3 Athletes (at their own expense), shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, the veterinary records of horses being considered for nomination. 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 nomination.
- 4.4 Each athlete will be required to keep a logbook for their horses in which they must record all products and treatments used on or given to their horse from 31st April 2020 until the completion of the 2020 Olympic Games. The Team Veterinarian must be provided this Logbook before the nomination date and at regular intervals post nomination. The Logbook must be submitted with a signed declaration.
- 4.5 Athletes should note that horses nominated for the Olympic Games will be subjected to FEI Pre-Arrival Testing (PAT). The PAT service will be available from [insert date] for full screening, thereafter for elective screening until [insert date]. The Dressage High Performance Director reserves the right to select horses for PAT. The Team Veterinarian can submit samples that will be tested for substances listed on the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List. Samples are to be sent to the FEI Central Laboratory, LGC in Newmarket. The results will be disclosed to the Dressage High Performance Director & Team Veterinarian.

Section 5 - Specific Nomination Criteria

Core Objective:

This nomination policy combines both competition and general criteria in order for the Dressage High Performance Director to select the IRL Dressage Team to compete at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The Dressage High Performance Director's primary objective is to nominate the appropriate 'mix of combinations' to give Ireland the best chance of a **Top 8 finish** at the 2020 Olympic Games.

- 5.1 In assessing the performances of Combinations, the DHPD **will consider** the following competition & general measures:

(A) Competition Measures

- i. The results by the athlete and horse combination at CDI3*, CDI4* and CDI5* and CDIO* level in 2019 and 2020 with emphasis on Team and Individual events followed by consideration of those in the Kur.
- ii. Consistency of scores over 68%, the DHPD reserves the right to consider scores below 68% should same be merited.
- 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 & 2020.
- v. Scores in 2020 will be given greater weight than scores obtained in 2019.
- vi. The overall quality of the start list (determined by FEI rankings of the other athletes and their current form);
- vii. The experience of the athlete and horse as a combination and their ability to cope with the pressures and challenges of the 2020 Olympic Games.
- viii. The degree of commitment to the HSI Dressage High Performance Programme.

(B) General Considerations

- i. The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the 2020 Olympic Games will be a significant factor in any nomination decision. Athletes must keep the Team Veterinarian fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the season.
- ii. The ability of the horse to travel by Airfreight to Japan uneventfully.
- iii. Athletes are required to disclose any illness or injury (however minor) to the DHPD and Team Veterinarian. Where it becomes apparent that a nominated horse is unsound or unfit to travel or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the DHPD reserves the right to remove that combination from nomination and selection with immediate effect.
- iv. The health and fitness of the athlete to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the 2020 Olympic Games will be a factor in any nomination decision.
- v. Athletes will be assessed by the Sport Ireland Institute in four (4) areas using assessments and profiling in:
 - a. Fitness
 - b. Nutrition
 - c. Physiotherapy
 - d. Psychology
- vi. Further consideration will be given to the following general measures:
 - a. Past performances and present form of the athlete and horse as a combination and an athlete or horse's historic form;
 - b. The suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas in Tokyo, Japan and for the expected conditions of the Tokyo Olympic Games (taking into account the objective of the team competition);
 - c. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support personnel to operate and perform in an Olympic environment which is highly regulated and pressurised;
 - d. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
 - e. the overall composition of the team;
 - f. the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at the highest level of international competition;
 - g. demonstrated experience and/ or success at Championship level;
 - h. the ability, or potential ability, of a Horse and/or Athlete to perform under the stress and pressure of an Olympic Games;
 - i. the ability of the Athlete to prepare their Horse to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the Olympic Games;
 - j. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a team medal outcome;
 - k. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve a podium finish) may be a consideration and may, in the DHPD's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination
 - l. degree of commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland High Performance (HP) Programme.

Section 6 – Force Majeure

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the DHPD may, at his 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 or contribute 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 DHPD to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events other attendances must advise the DHPD by email of this fact and the reasons thereof as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.

Section 7 - Removal of Athletes and/or horses

Applicable Timeframes

Subsequent to Nomination by Dressage High Performance Director

- 7.1 An athlete and horse as a combination, or separately, may be removed from nomination to OFI by the DHPD for any of the following reasons:
- a) Violation or alleged violation of the Sport Ireland and FEI (Human) Anti-Doping protocol, policies and procedure.
 - b) Violation or alleged violation of FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules.
 - c) An adverse analytical finding following on from testing pursuant to Sport Ireland, FEI Clean Sport protocol, (Human & Equine), Horse Sport Ireland National Equine Anti-Doping Programme policies and procedures.
 - d) Violation or alleged violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations and HSI General Rules.
 - e) Violation or alleged of the HSI Code of Conduct.
 - f) Any action which could damage the reputation of the Sport or the Country.
 - g) Nominated horse produces an adverse analytical finding following on from an assessment and/or Pre- Arrival Testing.
 - h) The Team Veterinarian determines the nominated horse unsound to travel and compete at the Summer Olympic Games.
 - i) The Team Veterinarian determines the nominated horse incapable of travelling by Air Freight for any stated reason.
 - j) Where an athlete falls ill or sustains an injury subsequent to nomination by the Dressage High Performance Director and is certified by the HSI Medical Officer or his/she designate as unfit to be nominated to the OFI for selection.

Subsequent to OFI Selection

- 7.2 An athlete and horse as a combination, or separately, may be removed from selection by the DHPD and the OFI for any but not limited to the following reasons:
- a) Violation or alleged violation of the Sport Ireland and FEI (Human) Anti-Doping protocol, policies and procedure.
 - b) Violation or alleged violation of FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules.

- c) An adverse analytical finding following on from testing pursuant to Sport Ireland, FEI Clean Sport protocol, (Human & Equine), Horse Sport Ireland National Equine Anti-Doping Programme policies and procedures.
- d) Violation or alleged violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations and HSI General Rules.
- e) Violation or alleged of the HSI Code of Conduct.
- f) Any action which could damage the reputation of the Sport or the Country.
- g) The selected horse produces an adverse analytical finding following on from an assessment and/or Pre- Arrival Testing.
- h) The HSI Team Veterinarian determines the OFI selected horse for any of, but not limited to., the following reasons unsound, unfit, unwell to travel and compete at the Summer Olympic Games.
- i) The Team Veterinarian determines the OFI selected horse incapable of travelling by Air Freight for any stated reason.
- j) Where an athlete falls ill or sustains an injury subsequent to selection by the Olympic Federation of Ireland, such athlete will be subject to the conditions of the OFI "Fit to Compete" undertaken by the OFI. The decision of the Olympic Federation of Ireland is final.

Section 8 - Reserves (P Athletes)

- 8.1 In the event an Athlete with a nominated or selected Horse is removed due to the reasons outlined in Section 7 above, the DHPD in conjunction with the OFI reserves the right to retain the nominated/ selected athlete or horse but substitute the horse with another horse campaigned by the athlete, or the athlete with another athlete campaigned with the horse, provided same is included on the relevant list for the Olympic Games. The DHPD reserves the right to elect this mechanism ahead of deferring to the P Athlete/Horse list in the first instance.

Section 9 - Disclaimers

- 9.1 These procedures are based on FEI General Regulations, FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, applicable FEI Sport Rules and the 2020 OFI Agreement for Selection of the Athletes for the Sport – Equestrian, 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 may not have accounted for every possible contingency.
- 9.2 As such, this nomination policy can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objective of the 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 10 - Appeals

- 10.1 Please see Horse Sport Ireland Appeal Procedure for the Tokyo Olympic Games (all Disciplines).

Ends/

Approved by the Board of Horse Sport Ireland dated 10th December 2019