



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Nomination Policy for the [Tokyo Paralympic Games 2021](#) Discipline of Para-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 Para-Dressage at the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.
- In addition to the criteria for eligibility for nomination for selection, there are [minimum eligibility requirements](#) which the athlete and horse, as a combination need to meet in order to be considered for nomination by the Tokyo Para-Dressage Nominations Committee (“the Nominations Committee”).
 - The Para-Dressage High Performance Director (the “PDHPD”) together with the members of the Nomination Committee are the technical experts who nominate an athlete/horse combination for selection.
 - The following individuals will comprise of the Tokyo Para-Dressage Nominations Committee:
 - Debora Pijpers - Para-Dressage High Performance Director
 - David Stickland - Dressage Data Analysis
 - Dara Kearney - HSI Para-Dressage High Performance Chairperson
 - The actual selection of any athlete/horse combination will be made by the Paralympics Ireland (“PI”).

Nomination for Selection

- a) Nominations for selection for the Irish Para-Dressage Team or individual allocations will be made to the Paralympics Ireland on 20th June 2021 .
- b) The Paralympics Ireland is the body which has the power to select an athlete for the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.
- c) The PI agrees to notify Horse Sport Ireland of its selection or its refusal to select any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable after the PI receives the nominations.

Section 1 – Key Timelines → new timeline?

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

- 1.1 **23 March 2020:** FEI confirms in writing the reallocation of unused qualification slots

- and the awarding of Bipartite Commission Invitations
- **8 May 2021:** Deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to receive accreditation application forms submitted by NPCs (“Accreditation Long List”) Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games – Qualification Regulations Equestrian
 - **19 June 2021:** End of the period for athlete/horse combinations to attain a minimum eligibility score and long list of athlete and horse combinations to be delivered to the FEI.
 - **3 August 2021:** Deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to receive sport entry forms submitted by NPCs.
 - **20 June 2021:** Subject to the number unused qualification slots allocated to Ireland, the Nominations Committee nominates the Athlete/Horse Combinations and P Alternate Athlete/Horse Combinations (Reserves) in order of preference that will be recommended to the Paralympics Ireland to represent Ireland at the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo subject to Section 8.
 - The PDHPD on behalf of the Nominations Committee will contact athletes by telephone call. Thereafter a formal email notification will issue.
- 1.2 **20 June 2021:** Nomination to Paralympics Ireland who confirms receipt of the nomination of Athlete/Horse Combinations as submitted. Thereafter, the Paralympics Ireland will either issue Team Ireland Agreements for execution or indicate its refusal to select nominated athlete/horse combinations.
- 1.3 **12th – 18th August 2020:** IRL Tokyo Exit Camp and Equine Quarantine at Aachen, Germany.
- 1.4 **19th August 2020:** Departure Horse Flight Le Liege BEL.
- 1.5 **26th August 2020:** First horse inspection for Para-Dressage.

Section 2 - Eligibility for Nomination

Athletes and horses to be considered to represent Ireland at the 2020 Paralympic 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 2022. From and including the year in which they reach their 16th birthday. Athletes are eligible to take part in the Para Equestrian Dressage Competitions.
- 2.2 All athletes and horses to be considered to compete at the 2021 Paralympic Games must earn an FEI Certificate of Capability by having achieve at least one (1) sixty-two (62) percent score at a FEI Para Equestrian 3* or above event in an Individual or Team competition between 1 January 2019 and 19 June 5 July 2021; in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Paralympic Games. The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website.
- 2.3 Athletes participating in the Tokyo 2021 Paralympic Games Para-Dressage Competitions must be born on or before 31st December 2003 (eighteen (18) years of age in the year of the Paralympics Games), as per the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games.
- 2.4 For Para Equestrian Dressage, Horses must be born on or before 31 December 2015 (6 years of age - the age being counted from 1st January of the year of birth) as per Article 606 of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games.
- 2.5 The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Paralympic Games.

Section 3 - Responsibilities

- 3.1 It is each athlete’s responsibility to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Para-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 Paralympic 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 Para-Dressage High Performance Director, Team Veterinarian, Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI High Performance Programme and Paralympics Ireland/IOC Paralympic 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 2021 Paralympic Games.
 - i) Athlete must be prompt in their communications with the Paralympics Ireland in respect of submitting details for purposes of Advanced Data Capture to ensure appropriate accreditation.
 - j) Athletes must be medically fit to complete all obligations. All injuries or medical conditions that may affect performance must be reported to the Para-Equestrian High-Performance Director as soon as the athlete is, or should reasonably be aware of, such injury or medical condition.
 - k) If necessary, Athletes must also have a current up to date Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) approved by the FEI.

Section 4 – Veterinary

- 4.1 The Horse Sport Ireland can request that an athlete's horse be presented for inspection by the Team Veterinarian at any time, either during the season before nomination or after nomination and selection by the Paralympics Ireland. Athletes must comply with this request. Athletes must notify the Para-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 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** → new date? until the completion of the 2021 Paralympic Games. The Team Veterinarian (who will be 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 Paralympic Games will be subjected to FEI Pre-Arrival Testing (PAT). The PAT service will be available from **1st June 2020 (other date?)** for full screening, thereafter for elective screening until **17th August 2020 (other date?)**. The Para-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 Para-Dressage High Performance Director & Team Veterinarian.

Section 5 - Specific Nomination Criteria

Core Objective:

This nomination policy combines both competition and general criteria for the Nominations Committee to select the IRL Para-Dressage individual(s) to compete at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo. The Nominations Committee primary objective is to nominate the appropriate combination(s) to give Ireland the best chance of a **Top 8** finish at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

5.1 In assessing the performances of Combinations, the PDHPD together with the members of the Nominations Committee will consider the following competition & general measures:

(A) Competition Measures

- i. All competitions national and international in 2020 and 2021 and the scores achieved in each class.
- ii. In addition to these TWO FINAL MANDATORY SELECTION TRIALS will be held. One will be held at April 10th and 11th and one will be held at May 8th and 9th (VENUES TBC). Combinations will have to do a team test and an individual test. These tests will be videoed and will be remotely marked by an appointed Foreign Judge. Scores of 68% or higher at the selection trials are considered for the purpose of selection.
- iii. On June 12th, there will be a further mandatory selection trial wherein athletes will be videoed completing an individual test for the purposes of remote assessment by an appointed Foreign Judge.
- iv. Thereafter:
 - The Nominations Committee will consider experience of the athlete and horse as a combination and their ability to cope with the pressures and challenges of the 2021 Paralympic Games.
 - Exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve an exceptional high placing or podium finish) may be a consideration and may, in the Nominations Committee sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination.
 - The degree of commitment to the HSI Para-Dressage High Performance Programme.

(B) General Considerations

- i. The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the 2021 Paralympic 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 PDHPD 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 Nomination Committee and PI 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 2021 Paralympic Games will be a factor in any nomination decision.
- v. Further consideration will be given to the following general measures:
 - a. The suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas in Tokyo, Japan and for the unexpected conditions of the Tokyo Paralympic Games (taking into account the objective of selection);
 - b. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support personnel to operate and perform in a Paralympic environment which is highly regulated and pressurised;
 - c. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
 - d. the overall composition of the Combinations that have been selected, where applicable;
 - e. the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at the highest level of international competition;
 - f. the ability, or potential ability, of a Horse and/or Athlete to perform under the stress and pressure of a Paralympic Games;
 - g. the ability of the Athlete to prepare their Horse to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the Paralympic Games;
 - h. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a medal outcome;

Section 6 – Force Majeure

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Nominations Committee 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 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 Nominations Committee to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events or training must advise the Para-Dressage High Performance Director 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 the Nominations Committee

- 7.1 An athlete and horse as a combination, or separately, may be removed from nomination to Paralympics Ireland by the Nominations Committee 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, unfit, unwell to travel and compete at the Summer Paralympic 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 Nominations Committee and is certified by the HSI Medical Officer or his/she designate as unfit to be nominated to PI for selection.

Subsequent to Paralympics Ireland Selection

- 7.2 An athlete and horse as a combination, or separately, may be removed from selection by the Nominations Committee and the Paralympics Ireland 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) 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 PI selected horse unsound, unfit, unwell to travel and compete at the Summer Paralympic Games.
 - i) The Team Veterinarian determines the PI 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 Paralympics Ireland, such athlete will be subject to the "Fitness to Compete Assessment" undertaken by the PI. The decision of the Paralympics 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 Nominations Committee in conjunction with the Paralympics Ireland reserves the right to retain the nominated/ selected athlete but substitute the horse with another horse campaigned by the athlete, provided same is included on the nominated entries list for the Paralympic Games. The Nominations Committee 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 Paralympic Games, applicable FEI Sport Rules and the 2020 Paralympics 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 Paralympic Ireland Appeal Procedure for the Tokyo Paralympic Games.

Ends/