



Criteria for the selection of the 2021 Children on Horses, Juniors and Young Riders High Performance Programme

1. Nature of the Programme

- 1.1 The purpose of this programme is to provide Ireland's Children on Horses, Juniors and Young Riders athletes with the best preparation within the allocated resources to represent Team Ireland at European Championships level. This programme aims to make the best athletes better, through the provision of a range of services and financial support, (where funding permits). The Programme also seeks to work closely with the Owners to ensure that they are fully involved with the process of trying to win medals. As a member of the **2021 Children on Horses, Juniors and Young Riders High Performance Programme ('HPP')** the athlete and horse will receive guidance regarding their specified individual programmes, which incorporates a team focus, coordinated by the High Performance Manager (**HPM**) 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 **2021 COH JR AND YR** High Performance Programme, the combination will be named on the relevant High Performance squad. The criterion below sets out the requirements in order to be included on the **2021 Squad**.

2. The 2021 Squads

Each Athlete/Horse combination ("the Combination") is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the **'2021 Squad'**

- 2.1 The purpose of the squad is to select the combinations that are developing and 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;

2.2 The High Performance Manager will select athletes to form the **Squad**

2.3 Squad Athletes:

ADDITIONAL SELECTION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2021

In addition, the following is a mandatory requirement, athletes should have attained at least one of the below to be considered for the following squads:

CHILDREN ON HORSES

Elite Squad

1. Were selected for COH squads at youth nation cup shows in 2019 & 2020.
2. Have competed in 1-20m and above classes in 2020. With a minimum of 5 classes with less than 8 faults in the first round.

High Performance Squad

1. Athletes that have been included in the Pony HP Programme who have horses that have 1-30 plus form, to be included in Elite Squad athletes must attend viewing day in 2021.
2. All athletes who have competed at 1-20m and above level, who have a new horse/s must attend a HSI viewing/ training day where the HPM will assess the suitability of the new combination for inclusion on High Performance Squad.

Development Squad

1. Athletes and horse combination who are new to the HP programme must be assessed as a combination by the HPM or a designated coach approved by the HPM at an organised viewing/ training day.
2. Remote Assessment by video analysis may be permissible if agreed by HPM.
3. Criteria for assessment will be based on performance over a course first round at 1-15/1-20m. And second round at 1-20/1-25m

JUNIOR

Elite Squad

1. Were selected for JUNIOR squads at youth nation cup shows in 2019 & 2020.
2. Have competed in 1-30m and above classes in 2020/2021. With a minimum of 5 classes with less than 8 faults in the first round.

High Performance Squad

1. Athletes that have progressed from the Pony HP Programme who have horses that have 1-40 plus form in 2019/2020.
2. All athletes who have competed at 1-30m and above level, who have a new horse/s must attend a HSI viewing/ training day where the HPM will assess the suitability of the new combination for inclusion on High Performance Squad.

Development Squad

1. Athletes and horse combination who are new to the HP programme must be assessed as a combination by the HPM or a designated coach approved by the HPM at an organised viewing/ training day.
2. Remote Assessment by video analysis may be permissible if agreed by HPM.
3. Criteria for assessment will be based on performance over a course first round at 1-25/1-30m. And second round at 1-30/1-35m.

YOUNG RIDERS

Elite Squad

1. Were selected for YOUNG RIDER squads at youth nation cup shows in 2019 & 2020.
2. Have competed in 1-35m and above classes in 2020 and 2021 at SJI Spring and Autumn Tours, with a minimum of 5 classes with less than 8 faults in the first round.

High Performance Squad

1. Athletes that have been a member of HP Programme in 2019, 2020, who have horses that have 1-45 plus form.
2. All athletes who have competed at 1-35m and above level, who have a new horse/s can attend a HSI viewing/ training day where the HPM will assess the suitability of the new combination for inclusion on High Performance Squad.
3. New athlete/ horse combinations should be competing at 2021 SJI Spring tour 1-35m Grand Prix classes with 8 faults or less in the first round.

Development Squad

1. Athletes and horse combination who are new to the HP programme must be assessed as a combination by the HPM or a designated coach approved by the HPM at an organised viewing/ training day and/or be competing at 2021 SJI Spring tour 1-35m Grand Prix classes with 8 faults or less in the first round.

2. General Criteria

- 2.1 Remote Assessment by video analysis may be permissible if agreed by HPM
- 2.2 Combinations who are competing Internationally at the relevant levels will be allocated to the appropriate squads.
- 2.3. The High-Performance Manager reserves the right to remove a combination from any of the Squads if the combination is deemed to have made insufficient progress through the competition levels and training sessions.
- 2.4 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 HPM.
- 2.5 The HPM reserves the right to amend and update the criteria for inclusion in the Children on Horses - Elite, High Performance, or Development Squad.
- 2.6 Combinations that are not currently listed on either Elite, High Performance, or Development Squad may be invited to join one of the HP Squads at any time.
- 2.7 This invitation will be wholly dependent on results, attention to detail with regard to performance planning, team player orientation and the capability to perform to the highest standard under pressure. Such Combinations will be considered based on their results in previous seasons and 2021. The HPM reserves the right to add additional combinations at any time.

- 2.8 The primary focus will be on combinations that have proven ability and that have already shown this ability [or potential] to represent Ireland at International level, and at Youth Nations Cup competitions in 2021.
- 2.9 In all instances, the standard of competition, the number of competitors, the number and level and the overall quality of the competition will be taken into consideration.
- 2.10 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 checks at all times.
- 2.11 The High-Performance Manager reserves the right to remove a combination from the 2020 Squad if the combination is deemed to have made insufficient progress through the competition levels.
- 2.12 Athletes are required to inform the HPM 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.
- 2.13 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 at competitions, where available.
- 2.14 The HPM reserves the right to amend and update the criteria for inclusion in the **2021 Squad**.
- 2.15 Combinations that are not currently listed on the 2021 Squad may be invited to join the 2021 Squad at any time. This invitation will be wholly dependent on results, attention to detail with regard to performance planning, team player orientation and the capability to perform to the highest standard under pressure. Such Combinations will be considered based on their results in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The HPM reserves the right to add additional combinations at any time.
- 2.16 **Squad athletes** are free to discuss with the HPM the requirements which they need to achieve to be considered for inclusion or mobility through the squad levels.

3. Additional requirements

- 3.1 Athletes must have demonstrated fitness, athlete experience, and the ability to develop and maintain a consistent training program. They must have demonstrated that they are ready for a rigorous training programme/preparation, as required for a successful international standard of competition.
- 3.2 The primary focus will be on combinations that have proven ability and that have already shown this ability [or potential] to represent Ireland at International level.
- 3.3 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.

- 3.5 Athletes must be fit and able to compete to the satisfaction of the High Performance Manager and the HSI Medical Officer.
- 3.6 Athletes must provide all requested paperwork regarding competition plans and performance reviews to the High Performance Manager & Administrator **within the agreed deadlines**. Athletes should note that where the requisite paperwork is not submitted within the timeframe agreed, athletes are at risk of being removed from the **2021 Squad**
- 3.7 Squad Athletes/Family members /trainers or agents agree that they will not comment publicly on **any issue** or concern they may have unless or until it is resolved **to the satisfaction of both the Athlete and HSI**.
- 3.8 Subject to clause 3.7, Squad Athletes acknowledge and agree that despite anything else in this Criteria, Squad Athletes or related parties 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 COH ,JR YR 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 'HPM' and Horse Sport Ireland. Further, Athletes are bound by the Horse Sport Ireland Social Media Policy, appended at Schedule 2. Any breach of this will result in removal from Squad
- 3.9 Any change in the 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.
- 3.10 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 High Performance Manager and High Performance management committee members will support members of the **2021 Squad** in the form of interval meetings (either at training or in competition) to identify how each Athlete can improve or enhance their respective performance(s).
- 4.2 Athletes must be prepared to work within the High Performance Programme structure and will be required to submit "training and competition plans" to the High Performance Manager, at the time of initial selection to the programme, and subsequently as requested during the year, by the HPM.
- 4.4 Once selected for the **Squad** horses may be required to present their horses for a **Veterinary Examination** at the request of the HPM. 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 HPM 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 the **2021 Squad** upon veterinary advice, if the HPD deems appropriate;

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

Expressions of Interest for the above squad can be sent to moreilly@horsesportireland.ie