



Criteria for the 2023 High Performance Squad, Development Squad and National Talent Squad for the Para-Dressage High Performance Programme

1. Nature of the Programme

- 1.1 The purpose of this programme is to provide Ireland's Para-Dressage athletes with the best preparation within the allocated resources to represent Team Ireland at European, World and Paralympic Championship level. This programme aims to make the best Para-Dressage athletes better and develop Para-Dressage High Performance in Ireland. As a member of the Para-Dressage High Performance Programme ('HPP') the athlete will receive guidance regarding their specified individual programmes, which incorporates a team focus, coordinated by the Para-Dressage High Performance Director, the Para-Dressage High Performance Executive 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 Para-Dressage High Performance Programme, the combination will be named on the relevant High Performance Squad, HP Development Squad, or HP National Talent Squad.
- 1.3 The criteria below sets out the requirements in order to be included on the following squads:
 - **2023 High Performance Squad**
 - **2023 HP Development Squad**
 - **2023 HP National Talent Squad**

2. The 2023 Para-Dressage HP Squads

2.1 2023 High Performance Squad

Each Athlete/Horse combination (the "Combination") is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the 2023 HP Para-Dressage squad.

2.1.1

- I. In a cycle of 12 months, combinations (athlete + horse) must have achieved at a minimum of two competitions (CPEDI3*'s or an official trial event appointed by HSI) at least two times a score at or above 68% in the Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B test in their relevant Grade.
- II. A combination will be included in the High Performance squad for a period of 12 months from the moment that the last qualifying score has been achieved. To requalify for the High Performance squad the combination will have to meet the criteria mentioned above again within the period of 12 months.



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Further consideration will be given to:

- i. Consistency of scores at or above 68%
- ii. The star level of the shows and the star level of the panels of judges;
- iii. The trend in average FEI Para Equestrian Team Test and FEI Para Equestrian Individual test scores in 2022 and 2023. Scores in 2023 will be given greater weight than scores obtained in 2022;
- iv. The overall quality of the start list of events (determined by FEI rankings of the other athletes and their current form);
- v. Commitment to the HSI High Performance Para-Dressage Programme.

2.1.2 The purpose of the squad is to include the combinations that are most likely to represent Ireland at European, World and Paralympic Championship level 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.

2.1.3 The Para-Dressage High Performance Director will select *up to* 6 athletes to form the **2023 HP Para-Dressage Squad**.

2.2 2022 HP – Para-Dressage Development Squad

Each Athlete/Horse combination (“the Combination”) is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the 2023 HP Para-Dressage Development Squad.

2.2.1

- I. In a cycle of 12 months, combinations must have achieved at a minimum of two competitions at least two times a score at or above 66% in the Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B test in their relevant Grade. At least one score should be achieved at an CPEDI3* event or at an official trial event appointed by HSI. One score could be achieved at a national show (judged by a list 1 or list 2 judge).
- II. A combination will be included in the Development squad for a period of 12 months from the moment that the last qualifying score has been achieved. To requalify for the Development squad the combination will



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have to meet the criteria mentioned above again within the period of 12 months.

- 2.2.2 The purpose of the squad is to select the combinations that are developing, show potential to grow towards the HP squad and are committed. The Para-Dressage High Performance Director will select *up to 6* athletes to form the **2023 HP Para-Dressage Development Squad**.

2.3 2023 HP – Para-Dressage National Talent Squad

Each Athlete/Horse combination (“the Combination”) is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the 2022 HP Para-Dressage National Talent Squad.

2.3.1.

- I. In a cycle of 12 months, combinations must have achieved at a minimum of two international or national competitions at least three times a score at or above 64% (judged by a list 1 or list 2 judge) in the Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B test in their relevant Grade.
- II. A combination will be included in the National talent squad for a period of 12 months from the moment that the last qualifying score has been achieved. To requalify for the National talent squad the combination will have to meet the criteria mentioned above again within the period of 12 months.

- 2.2.3 The purpose of the squad is to stimulate and motivate talented combinations to join the HP programme and to select combinations that show commitment and consistency of performance at (inter)national competitions. The Para-Dressage High Performance Director will select *up to 8* athletes to form the **2023 HP Para-Dressage National Talent Squad**.

3. General criteria

- 3.1 The Para-Dressage High Performance Director (PDHPD) is the sole selector of combinations based on results. The PDHPD 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 PDHPD, 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 be wholly dependent on results, attention



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to detail with regard to performance planning, team player orientation and the capability to perform under pressure. Such Combinations will be considered based on their results in 2022 and 2023. The PDHPD reserves the right to add additional combinations at any time.

- 3.5 Any Para-Dressage Athlete is free to discuss with the PDHPD 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 PDHPD 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 PDHPD 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 PDHPD reserves his right to remove the athlete combination from the squad. The PDHPD 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 Para-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 'PDHPD' 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 At all times, Athletes will be bound by the HSI Athlete Code of Conduct.
- 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



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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 Para-Dressage High Performance Director will support members of the **listed squads**. Below a description of the support that could be expected. Note that changes could be made based on availability of the PDHPD and budget.

4.1.1 High Performance Squad – squad support

- Online training (weekly [dependant on availability PDHPD and international competitions], once per month is mandatory)
- One video test with 5* judge in start of the season
- Training camp [funded by PEI]
- Setting individual targets before competitions (riders main responsibility, can be discussed/checked with PDHPD)
- Monthly group review with the HP Director and all squad members (High Performance, Development and National Talent squad)
- Quarterly discussion between PDHPD and private trainer
- Veterinary assessment with the Team vet/FEI vet [funded by the athletes]
- Nutrition / Sports and Conditioning / Sport psychology (work in progress with Paralympic Ireland, still to be confirmed)
- Kick off day: start of the season
- Subject to available funding, athletes bursaries may be available from time to time

4.1.2 HP Development squad – squad support

- Online training (every two weeks, once per month is mandatory)
- One video test with 5* judge in start of the season
- Training camp [funded by PEI]
- Setting individual targets before competitions (riders main responsibility, can be discussed/checked with PDHPD)
- Monthly group review with the HP Director and all squad members (High Performance, Development and National Talent squad)
- Quarterly discussion between PDHPD and private trainer
- Veterinary assessment with Team vet/FEI vet [funded by the athletes]
- Nutrition / Sports and Conditioning / Sport psychology (still to be informed about the possibilities)
- Kick off day: start of the season

4.1.3 HP National talent squad – squad support

- Online training sessions with PDHPD (8 times per year)
- Monthly group review with the HP Director and all squad members (High Performance, Development and National Talent squad)
- Training camp [funded by PEI]
- Kick off day: start of the season



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- 4.2 Athletes must be prepared to work within the Para-Dressage High Performance Programme structure and will be required to submit “training and competition plans” to the Para-Dressage High Performance Director, at the time of initial selection to the programme, and subsequently as requested during the year, by the PDHPD.
- 4.4 Once selected for the **2023 Squads** horses may be required to present their horses for a **Veterinary Examination** at the request of the PDHPD. Athletes are requested to keep a veterinary logbook for their respective squad horses for inspection at any time by the HSI Team Vet or his designate.
- 4.5 The PDHPD 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 2023 Squads upon veterinary advice, if the PDHPD deems appropriate;

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

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