



HORSE SPORT

IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy
FEI Pony European Jumping Championships,
CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek (BEL)
25th – 28th July 2024

SECTION I TIMELINES

1.1 The selection timelines for the CH-EU-P-S, P Opglabbeek, (BEL) are as follows:

1.2	CSIOP Competitions 2024	<p>Pony Team Manager Gary Marshall will be in attendance at the following CSIOP Competitions to view pony/athlete combination(s) in competition:</p> <p>CSIOP Opglabbeek (BEL) 02/04/24 - 07/04/24 CSIOP Compiègne (FRA) 17/04/24 - 21/04/24 CSIOP Zuidwolde (NED) 28/05/24 - 02/06/24 CSIOP Hagen (GER) 11/06/24 - 16/06/24</p>
1.3	May 17th - 19th Mullingar Equestrian Centre	<p>Phase 1 EU-CH Selection ‘EU-CH Pony Selection Event’ – Top Ten (8) placed Combinations plus up to two (2) Combination’s progress to Phase 2 EU-CH Selection</p> <p>The two (2) additional combinations (if selected) will be at the sole discretion of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager.</p>
1.4		<p>Phase 2 EU-CH Selection</p> <p>5 Combinations participate CSIOP Zuidwolde (NED) 28/05/24-02/06/24.</p> <p>5 Combinations participate in CSIOP Hagen (GER) 11/06/24 - 16/06/24</p> <p>The selection of the event for each combination is at the discretion of Pony Jumping HP Team Manager.</p>

1.5	Approximately 4 weeks before CH-EU Schedule yet to be published	FEI Nominated Entries Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries. European Squad Shortlist (10 combinations) to the FEI, pursuant to Article 22 of the FEI Jumping Rules. Please note nominated entries are ranked alphabetically.
1.6	June 21st	Phase 3 EU-CH Selection Five (5) championship squad places shall be allocated by the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager in his sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible result at the CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, BEL. In addition to the (5) squad athletes as detailed above, (2) combinations will be named as non- travelling reserves.
1.7	Date TBC	Official Squad Training National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
	Date TBC	Horse Sport Ireland submits the Definite Entries to the FEI;

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, BEL must be mindful of the following eligibility requirements:
- 2.1.1 An Athlete may compete as a Pony Rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 12 until the end of the year in which he reaches the age of 16.
 - 2.1.2 All Pony athletes must be registered as IRL athletes for 2023, notwithstanding Art. 119.3.1 of the FEI General Regulations, 2023 which states that a 'A minor athlete who is a citizen of more than one country can choose each calendar year in which he wishes to represent'.
 - 2.1.3 Athletes must be jumping competently at a height comparable to what is expected at CH-EU-P-S level.
 - 2.1.4 Pony Owners must ensure that their Pony holds a Lifetime Certificate or is within the FEI Pony Measuring Transition System or alternatively has the benefit of the FEI Pony Measuring Derogation for 2023. To check status, please confer with the [FEI Database](#)

SECTION III RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the sole responsibility of each Pony Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team to be fully cognisant of the current [FEI Rules for Jumping](#), specifically Annex XI Rules for Pony Riders and the [FEI Clean Sport policy](#).
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of each Pony Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team to be fully cognisant of the FEI Veterinary Regulations, including but not limited to Chapter IX, Pony Measuring.
- 3.3 Athletes must strictly abide by the principles of the following:
 - i. FEI General Regulations.
 - ii. FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.
 - iii. [HSI & 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.
 - iv. Horse Sport Ireland General Rules and Policies.
 - v. The Horse Sport Ireland 'Athlete Code of Conduct' and act in a manner that does not bring Team Ireland Equestrian into disrepute, please see **Appendix 1** attached.
 - vi. The Horse Sport Ireland 'Social Media Policy', please see **Appendix 2** attached.
- 3.4 Prompt communications with the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, Team Coaches, Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI Pony Jumping High Performance Programme are required throughout the season.
- 3.5 Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behavior.
- 3.6 All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official Horse Sport Ireland team kit, including but limited to athlete clothing, equine clothing, stable apparel while participating at the CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, BEL.
- 3.7 One of the goals of the Horse Sport Ireland Pony Jumping High Performance Programme is to build a good team spirit within the squad. If a Pony Athlete, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team are not contributing to this, the Pony Jumping High Performance Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect.
- 3.8 The specific aim of this Policy is to select a team capable of achieving a medal at the FEI Pony European Championships.

SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 The Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager and/or Horse Sport Ireland can request that a horse be made available for inspection by the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request.

- 4.2 Athletes must notify the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent.
- 4.3 The Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager and/or Horse Sport Ireland can send the Team Veterinarian 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.
- 4.4 Athletes/Persons Responsible (at their own expense), shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian, the veterinary records of horses being considered for selection. In addition, athletes/persons responsible, (at their own expense), shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses being considered for selection. Athletes, (at their own expense), are to consider any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, in consultation with the Ponies regular Private Treating Veterinarian. Failure to comply with any request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete/Pony combination from selection by the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager.
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a logbook for their Pony in which they must record all products, treatments, supplements used on or given to their Pony. The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this logbook at any time. Athletes are required to submit this logbook together with the Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration (**Appendix 3**) to the Team Veterinarian on or before **Date TBC** in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.6 For the purposes of section IV, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager reserves the right to remove an athlete combination from selection, where the athlete does not comply with any of the above veterinary requests or the horse is deemed unsound by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, (BEL). The decision of the HPM on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

SECTION V SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Pursuant to the 2020 FEI Jumping Rules, a team of **four (4)** athlete/pony combinations, and **one (1)** individual athlete/pony combination are authorised to take part in the CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, (BEL) pursuant to Art 22, 'Continental Jumping Championships', Annex IX of the FEI Jumping Rules, 2020.
- 5.2 To retain a squad place for the CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, (BEL) the following shall be the selection pathway for 2024.

Phase 1 EU-CH Selection

'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' Mullingar Equestrian Centre

- 5.3 Horse Sport Ireland will host a specific 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' for the purposes of shortlisting up to 10* athlete/pony combinations for Phase 1 of the EU-CH Selection.

5.3.1 Eligibility

EU-CH Pony Selection Event

To be eligible to enter EU-CH Pony Selection Event, Ponies must have grandfather rights/an FEI measuring stamp.

Please take time to familiarise yourself with the FEI Pony Measuring System: *Pony Measuring System/FEI*

All pony combinations who have jumped in a 130m 148cm class are eligible to enter the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event'. However, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager reserves the right to exclude any combination from the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' at any stage, on health and safety grounds or pony welfare grounds, where he considers that any combination is being over-faced.

5.3.2 Competition Forma

The 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' will be held in Mullingar Equestrian Centre, The following will be the competition format:

Date	Class	Ranking System
<p>Friday 17TH May</p> <p>3.00pm Ponies must be on site.</p> <p>4.00pm Trot Up</p> <p>6.00pm Table A - Main Arena</p>	<p>"Table A" competition (1.25m) Speed FEI Rules Apply Start time 6.00pm</p>	<p>For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' Ranking System, all athlete combinations are required to jump, and their placing will determine their starting order for the 'Nations Cup' style competition on Saturday.</p>
<p>Saturday 18th May</p>	<p>'Nations Cup' style competition Two (2) Rounds (1.30-1.35m) FEI Rules Apply Start time 9.00am</p>	<p>For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection, all athlete combinations are required to jump both rounds.</p>
<p>Sunday 19th May</p>	<p>Pony Grand Prix For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Trial all combinations are required to jump in the Pony Grand Prix (1.30m)</p>	<p>For the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' Ranking System, all combinations are required to jump in the Pony Grand Prix</p>

5.3.3 Veterinary & Stabling

- i. Ponies must present for trot up at 4pm on Friday 17th May 2024, passports must be made available for inspection.
- ii. In addition, it is compulsory for ponies who are competing in the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' to go into secure stabling for the Friday night of the event. 24-hour Stable security will be provided.
- iii. Entry to the stables will be restricted.
- iv. All ponies competing in the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' will be stabled in the same stabling area and schooling carefully supervised.
- v. Ponies must arrive in **Mullingar Equestrian Centre** and be in the secure area no later than 3.00pm on Friday 17th May and remain on the grounds continuously from this time through the completion of the event.
- vi. Ponies are only permitted to school in the designated rings at the appointed times under the supervision of the on-site event steward.

5.3.4 Inclement Weather, Force Majeure, or Other Extenuating Circumstances prior to/during the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event'

- i. In the case of inclement weather, force majeure, or other extenuating

circumstances prior to or during the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event', the Pony Jumping Team Manager, who are present at the competition site, and after consultation with the Show Committee, reserve the right to:

- Make adjustments in the course as to length, track, and/or size of fences, and/or
- Reschedule the event, either in time, date and/or location, and/or
- Cancel the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event'.
- The Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager reserves the right to consider whether rounds accumulated by combinations are carried forward to a rescheduled event, or in the alternative, the event is held de novo.

5.3.4 Entry to the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event'

- Entries for the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' should be made with) hdevlin@horsesportireland.ie in Horse Sport Ireland before close of business 5pm on Wednesday 15th May.
- The entry fee of €200 is payable in advance.
- This covers entries and stabling for the duration of the event.

5.4 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' - Top Ten (8) placed Combinations plus up to two (2) Combination's progress to Phase 2 EU-CH Selection will progress to Phase 2 of the EU-CH Selection process.

5.5 The Pony Jumping HP Team Manager reserves the right to **select up to** two (2) combinations from the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' who were not successful in achieving a top 8 (eight) finish. Pony Jumping Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their personal management team should note that the Pony Jumping HP Team Manager is not obliged to select these additional two (2) combinations, these selections are wholly within his discretion. In assessing the performances of combinations, the Pony Jumping High Performance Manager will consider the measures as set out in clauses 5.15 & 5.16 below. These two combinations, where selected, will be announced on Monday 20th May.

5.6 Top Ten (8) placed Combinations **plus up to** two (2) Combination's progressto **Phase 2 EU-CH Selection**

5 Combinations participate CSIOP Zuidwolde (NED) 28/05/24 - 02/06/24

5 Combinations participate in CSIOP Hagen (GER) 11/06/24 - 16/06/24

The selection of the event for each combination is at the discretion of Pony Jumping HP Team Manager.

5.7 In the event an athlete qualifies more than one (1) pony in the top ten placing, athletes will only be permitted to progress to Phase 2 EU-CH with a maximum of two (2) ponies. In the event, an athlete qualifies three (3), the Pony Jumping Team Manager shall select the two ponies which will progress to

Phase 2 EU-CH Selection

5.10 European Pony Squad – Short List HSI NATIONS CUP EVENTS - 10 INVITED

- 5.10.1 For the avoidance of any doubt, the ten (10) * combinations, (8) of which are the top 8 (8) ranked combinations after the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' plus up to two (2) combinations at the discretion of the Pony Jumping HP Team Manager shall comprise the European Pony Jumping Squad 2024 short list.
- 5.10.2 Phase 2 of the EU-CH Selection allows the Pony Jumping HP Team Manager view the 10 (10) combinations. Therefore, in order to progress to Phase 3 of the EU-CH Selection, combinations will be requested to compete at either.
- 5 Combinations participate CSIOP Zuidwolde (NED) 30/05 - 04/06/24
- 5 Combinations participate in CSIOP Hagen (GER) 13/06/23 - 18/06/24
- 5.10.3 The selection of the event for each combination is at the discretion of Pony Jumping HP Team Manager.
- 5.10.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the combinations respective placing or position in the classes during the 'EU-CH Pony Selection Event' event or above mentioned Nations Cup events does not have an automatic bearing on the final selection (Phase 4 EU-CH Selection) for the Championship squad of five (5) combinations plus two (2) non-travelling reserves.

Phase 3 EU-CH Selection

- 5.11 On the 21st of June, five (5) championship squad places shall be allocated by the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager in his sole and absolute discretion to achieve the best possible result at the **CH-EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, (BEL)** The decision of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager is final.
- 5.12 Without in anyway limiting the discretion of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, the following measures will be considered in the context of the selection of the five (5) championship squad places.
- 5.13 Further, the below measures will also be considered when selecting the two (2) athlete/Pony combinations that will be named as non-travelling reserves in order. All reserves selected should be available (if necessary) to step in and to the squad up until the departure date for the Championships.
- 5.14 In assessing the performances of combinations through Phase 2-3 of the EU-CH Selection, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager will consider the following competition measures:
- i. The consistency of results across competition types.
 - ii. **The final placing of the Combination (note that the score and the placing of each Combination at particular events will be considered but do not automatically position one Combination above another for selection purposes.**
- 5.15 In assessing the performance of combinations, through Phase 2-3 of the EU-CH Selection, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager will give consideration to general measures. These general measures include, but are not limited to:
- i. Past performances and present form of the athlete and Pony combination;
 - ii. the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas at Opglabbeek, BEL and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU-P-S, (taking into account the objective of the team and individual competition).

- iii. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support team to operate and perform in a FEI championship environment which is highly regulated & pressurised.
- iv. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment.
- v. the overall balance of the Combinations that have been selected.
- vi. the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at the highest level of international competition.
- vii. Demonstrated experience and/ or success at Championship level; the ability, or potential ability, of a Pony and/or Athlete to perform under the stress and pressure of a FEI Championships.
- viii. The ability of the Athlete, their personal responsible and/or their personal management team to prepare their Pony to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the FEI Championship.
- ix. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a team medal outcome may be a consideration.
- X. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve an individual medal) may be a consideration and may, in the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination.
- xi. Strong commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland Pony Jumping High Performance (HP) Programme.

- 5.16 Athletes should note that pursuant to Art 22.7.2 of the FEI Jumping Rules, a substitution of a team member by the fifth pair (Athlete/Pony) may only be allowed in case of an accident or illness either to one of the four team Athletes or to one of the four Ponies, provided the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager obtains the approval of the Ground Jury. Such substitution may be made up to one hour before the start of the first round of the Team Final.
- 5.17 As a condition of selection, all selected athletes will be required to stay in the designated team hotel in Opglabbeek, BEL. This is a mandatory requirement in order to build and maintain team spirit.
- 5.18 Further, all squad members are expected to stay and support the team at the CH-EU- P-S, Opglabbeek , BEL.

General Measures – Applicable Phase 2-4 EU-CH Selection

- 5.19 Athletes should note that where a squad place is secured, this is wholly dependent on the athlete/pony combination maintaining fitness, form, and soundness.
- 5.20 The soundness of the Pony to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU- P-S, Opglabbeek BEL, will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Pony Athletes, their Person Responsible and/or their Personal Management Team must keep the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the Pony may have both historically and throughout the selection period.
- 5.21 From the Monday 21ST May 2024, the ten (10) * combinations must immediately inform the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager and Team Veterinarian of any illness or injury (however minor). Where it becomes apparent that a Pony is unsound, and/or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from the squad with immediate effect. The decision of the HPM on advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.
- 5.22 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager may undertake regular evaluations as to the combination's standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their form (as a combination and on other horses). Any advices provided by the Team Veterinarian, and support personnel may be utilised by the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager.
- 5.23 Furthermore, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager shall have the authority to remove a selected pony/athlete combination from the squad or as a reserve, where the selected pony and/or athlete has not maintained their fitness, standard of performance, or any other performance related

matter in which the HPM considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the CH- EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, BEL.

- 5.24 Selected athletes may be required to travel to High Performance training before the European Championships in Opglabbeek, (BEL).

SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager may, in 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 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 Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager by email of this fact and the reasons thereof as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.
- 6.4 In the case of injury or illness, athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctor (s) nominated by Horse Sport Ireland. The Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager reserves his right to remove an athlete where the designated medical officer deems the athlete unfit to compete, at the level which resulted in their selection for the CH- EU-P-S, Opglabbeek, BEL.
- 6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION VII REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 7.1 An athlete shall be removed from squad selection (individual or team), non-travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries by the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager pursuant clause 3.7, 4.6, 5.20, 5.22 & 6.4 above.
- 7.2 An athlete may be removed from squad selection (individual or team), non-travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries and/or FEI Final Entries for any of the following reasons, as determined by Horse Sport Ireland Sport Panel.
- i. Notification of an adverse analytical finding following on from testing pursuant to the FEI & HSI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules & FEI & Sport Ireland Human Anti-Doping Protocols.
 - ii. Violation of the FEI & HSI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules & FEI & Sport Ireland Human Anti-Doping Protocols.
 - iii. Violation of the FEI Hypersensitivity Protocol.
 - iv. Violation or alleged violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations, HSI General Rules and/or Policies.
 - v. Violation or alleged violation of the HSI Code of Conduct.
 - vi. Any action which could damage the reputation of the Sport or the Country.
- 7.3 A decision of the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager pursuant to 7.1 and 7.2 above is final and binding.

SECTION VIII DISCLAIMERS

- 8.1 These procedures are based on FEI General Regulations, applicable FEI Sport Rules, Showjumping Ireland rules as presently known and understood. This athlete selection policy is based on the latest information available to HSI. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

8.2 As such, this policy can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to amend or change the Selection Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objective of the Selection 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.

Any queries with regard to the above athlete selection policy can be directed to the Pony Jumping High Performance Team Manager, Gary Marshall gmarshall@horsesportireland.ie

ENDS

**Appendices
Schedule**

Appendix 1	Athlete Code of Conduct
Appendix 2	HSI Social Media Policy
Appendix 3	HSI Medication & Anti-Doping Declaration & Logbook