



# **HORSE SPORT**

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# **IRELAND**

## **National to International Pathway Qualification Criteria**

### **Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) for Senior Dressage 2025**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) High Performance Dressage Manager (HPDM) is responsible for authorising the participation of Irish Dressage athletes at international competitions.

This document outlines the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) for Senior Dressage athletes seeking to compete internationally in 2025. It aims to provide a fair and transparent benchmark and to ensure that athletes are suitably prepared to represent Ireland at international level.

All athletes must be current members of Dressage Ireland, and all horses must be registered with Dressage Ireland.

#### **2. Specific Pathway Criteria**

All Senior Dressage athletes wishing to be considered for international competitions must meet the following criteria:

##### *CDI 3 (Big Tour)\**

- Two overall scores of at least 66% in the FEI Grand Prix, or one in the Grand Prix and one in the Grand Prix Special.
- Scores must be obtained at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different appropriately listed judges, within 6 months of the application date.
- If judged by panels, there must be at least one different judge across the two tests.

##### *CDI 2 (Middle Tour)\**

- Two overall scores of at least 66%, one in the FEI Intermediate A and one in the FEI Intermediate B.
- Achieved at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different appropriately listed judges within 6 months of the date of application.
- If judged by panels, at least one different judge must be involved.

##### *CDI 1 (Small Tour)\**

- Two overall scores of at least 66%, one in the FEI Prix St Georges and one in the FEI Intermediate I.
- Achieved at affiliated national competitions (including other jurisdictions) in front of two different appropriately listed judges within 6 months of the date of application.

#### CDI Young Horse

- 5 and 6-year-olds: Two overall scores of at least 75%, in either the FEI Preliminary or Final tests in the relevant age category, judged by two different Young Horse-specific judges, in the current calendar year.
- 7-year-olds: Two overall scores of at least 70%, in either the Preliminary or Final test, under two different Young Horse-specific judges, in the current calendar year.

Current form must be demonstrated within 3 months prior to the intended international competition.

The HPDM reserves the right to apply discretion where merited.

#### Non-IRL Athletes

The HPDM may consider athletes who do not fall within the above-defined categories, such as those eligible to compete for Ireland through sport nationality changes or naturalisation. The HPDM shall assess the portability of national or international results from other jurisdictions on a case-by-case basis.

### 3. Application Process

Once the eligibility criteria have been achieved, athletes must:

1. Contact the HPDM, Anne Marie Dunphy, and the High Performance Executive, Susann Tschoerner ([stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie)), to express interest and submit supporting documentation.
2. Register with the FEI through the Horse Sport Ireland FEI Registrations Department. Contact Brid Marron ([feireg@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:feireg@horsesportireland.ie)). Full information is available at: [HSI FEI Passports & Registrations](#)
3. Submit a written application to the HP Executive including:
  - Name of athlete and horse
  - Name of event being applied for
  - Specific class(es) entered
  - Confirmation of qualifying national results
  - Individual Athlete Performance Plan (IAPP), outlining intended CDIs

The HPDM may decline an application for a proposed event if it is considered not appropriate for a first international appearance, and may instead recommend an alternative competition.

### 4. Loss of Form

#### **A. Initial Review (First 12 Months)**

Athlete/horse combinations who compete internationally following initial permission will be reviewed after 12 months.

If results indicate a consistent downward trend, as defined by the pathway criteria in Section 2, the HPDM will evaluate the combination's suitability for continued international participation.

#### **B. Ongoing Review (Post-12 Months)**

For future seasons and subsequent FEI registration renewals, combinations demonstrating sustained underperformance may be:

- Refused entry to further CDI events
- Directed to lower competition levels to regain form
- Guided toward specific events suitable to their current level

Before any decision is made, the athlete will be invited to submit relevant information or mitigating factors for consideration.

All decisions will be made in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.

### **5. FEI Registration & Clean Sport**

All athletes and horses must be registered with the FEI, in line with FEI Articles 113 and 137 (General Regulations).

- Horses must hold a FEI-approved national passport with a valid FEI Recognition Card.
- All registrations must be completed through Horse Sport Ireland's FEI Registrations Unit.
- Athletes and horses must comply with FEI Clean Sport regulations. Details can be found here: [FEI Clean Sport](#)

### **6. Variations**

This policy may be amended at any time by the HPDM to uphold its objective: ensuring that Team Ireland is appropriately represented on the international stage.

Amendments may be made:

- To reflect changes in national or international regulations
- To correct drafting errors or oversights
- For any reason considered to be in the best interest of Horse Sport Ireland

Horse Sport Ireland and the HPDM will not be held liable for any consequence arising from such amendments.

### **7. Questions and Contact**

All queries related to this pathway should be directed to the High Performance Executive:  
Susann Tschoerner – [stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie)