



National to International Pathway Qualification Criteria

Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) for Youth Dressage (P/J/YR/Ch/U25)

1. Introduction

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

This document outlines the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) for athletes competing in the Pony, Junior, Young Rider, Children on Horses (Ch) and U25 categories. It aims to provide a fair and transparent benchmark for performance and ensure that athletes are suitably prepared to represent Ireland internationally.

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

2. Specific Pathway Criteria – Youth Dressage

CDIP / CDIJ / CDIY / CDICH

- Three overall scores of at least 68%, including:
 - One in the FEI Team Test
 - One in the FEI Individual Test
 - One in either test at the relevant level
- Scores must be achieved at affiliated national competitions in Ireland or abroad, in front of two different appropriately listed judges, within 12 months of the application date.

CDIU25

- Three overall scores of at least 66% in FEI Intermediate II, Short Grand Prix or Grand Prix.
- Scores must be obtained at affiliated national competitions in Ireland or abroad, in front of two different appropriately listed judges, within 12 months of the application date.

Current Form

- A minimum score of 66% must be demonstrated in a relevant test within 3 months prior to the intended international competition.

The HPM will identify key national and international events where combinations may compete to establish eligibility for team selection.

The HPM reserves the right to apply discretion where merited.

3. Application Process

Once the eligibility criteria have been met, athletes must:

1. Contact the HPM, Anne Marie Dunphy, and the High Performance Executive, Susann Tschoerner (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 at feireg@horsesportireland.ie.
Full information is available at:
[HSI FEI Passports & Registrations](#)
3. Submit a written application to the HP Dressage Executive including:
 - Name of athlete and horse/pony
 - Name of event
 - Classes at the event
 - Confirmation of qualifying national results
 - Individual Athlete Performance Plan (IAPP), outlining proposed CDI events

The Dressage HPM may decline an application for a proposed event if it is considered not appropriate for an athlete's first international appearance. An alternative competition may be suggested.

4. Loss of Form

A. Initial Review (First 12 Months)

Combinations granted permission to compete internationally will be reviewed after 12 months. If a consistent downward trend in results is evident (based on the pathway criteria in Section 2), the HPM will assess the combination's continued suitability.

B. Ongoing Review (Post-12 Months)

For any future FEI registration renewals, if a combination shows ongoing underperformance, the HPM may:

- Decline further international entry approvals;
- Direct the athlete to compete at a lower level;
- Recommend participation in specific events to rebuild form.

Before any final decision is taken, the athlete will be invited to submit mitigating factors or evidence 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/ponies must be registered with the FEI, in accordance with FEI Articles 113 and 137 (General Regulations).

- Horses/ponies must hold a valid FEI-approved national passport and FEI Recognition Card for the relevant CDI level.
- Registrations must be processed via the HSI FEI Registrations Unit.
- Athletes and horses/ponies must comply with FEI Clean Sport regulations.

Further information can be found at:
FEI Clean Sport

All queries regarding this policy should be directed to the High Performance Executive, Susann Tschoerner (stschoerner@horsesportireland.ie).

6. Variations

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

Amendments may be made:

- In response to changes in national or international rules;
- To address drafting oversights;
- For any reason deemed to be in the best interests of Horse Sport Ireland.

Neither HSI nor the HPM shall be liable for any consequences arising from such amendments.

7. Document Control

Approved: January 2022

Updated: 14 April 2025