



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy for the FEI Para Dressage European Championships 2025

Introduction

This Policy sets out the process for selecting athletes and horses for the FEI Para Dressage European Championships in ERMELO (NED) 3-7 September 2025.

Section 1 – Key Timelines

Monday 14 July 2025	The Para Dressage High Performance Manager will determine the selected athlete combinations who will represent Ireland at the FEI Para Dressage European Championships, Ermelo.
TBC pending publication of FEI Schedule	Horse Sport Ireland formally submits the nominated entries to the FEI, to include a certificate of capability for the CH-EU-PED pursuant to FEI General Regulations.
TBC pending publication of FEI Schedule	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI for the CH-EU-PED

Section 2 - Eligibility for Nomination

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the [CH-EU-PED](#) must in the first instance have attained (as a combination) one result of minimum 64%, attributed by the Ground Jury, in a Para Grand Prix A test or Para Grand Prix B test in their respective grade at a CPEDI3* or above event between the 1st January 2024 until the date of nominated entries (FEI MER). Please note that the achievement of the MER is basic requirement and in no way

confers an obligation upon the Para Dressage High Performance Manager to select an Athlete/Horse combination.

- 2.2 It is the sole responsibility of each Athlete to ensure that they have the required MER for the level of Championship.

Section 3 - Responsibilities

- 3.1 It is each athlete's responsibility to be fully cognisant of the current FEI Rules for Para Dressage and the FEI Clean Sport policy.

- 3.2 Athletes must strictly abide by the following:
- a) FEI General Regulations and FEI Discipline Sport Rules
 - b) FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
 - e) The Horse Sport Ireland Athlete Code of Conduct.
 - f) Prompt communications with the Para Dressage High Performance Manager, Team Veterinarian, and Horse Sport Ireland in relation to the HSI High Performance Programme requirements/requests.
 - g) Athletes must show a commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour.
 - h) All Athletes selected will be required to wear the official Team Ireland kit where provided while participating at the [CH-EU-PED](#).

Section 4 - Veterinary

- 4.1 Horse Sport Ireland can request that a horse be made available for inspection by the Team Veterinarian(s) or an appointed Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request.
- 4.2 Athletes must notify Horse Sport Ireland of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent.
- 4.3 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 FEI Pre-Arrival Testing and/or as part of an assessment of the horse's well-being.
- 4.4 Athletes (at their own expense) shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian, the veterinary records of horse(s) being considered for selection. In addition, athletes, (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. Failure to comply with any request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian may adversely affect a combination in respect of selection.
- 4.5 Each athlete will be required to keep a medication logbook for their horses in which they shall record all products, treatments, foodstuffs and all supplements used on or given to their horse commencing 30 days before the event (so at August 3rd, 2025) until the conclusion of the event.
- 4.6 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 for assessment on or before the FEI Final Definite Entries in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.

- 4.7 In the event that treatments and medications are necessary subsequent to the submission of the logbook, express approval is required from Team Veterinarian and Horse Sport Ireland. This is a mandatory requirement to ensure that squad horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.
- 4.8 For the purposes of section IV, Horse Sport Ireland 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 and/or unfit by the Team Veterinarian to travel and compete at the [CH-EU-PED](#). The decision of Horse Sport Ireland on advice from Team Veterinarian is final.

Section 5 - Specific Nomination Criteria

Core Objective:

This nomination policy combines both competition and general criteria in order for the Para Dressage High Performance Para Dressage Manager to select the IRL Para Dressage Team to compete at the 2025 European Championships. The Para Dressage High Performance Manager primary objective is to nominate the appropriate 'mix of combinations' to give Ireland the best chance of a Top 12 finish at the Championships.

- 5.1 In assessing the performances of Combinations, the Para Dressage High Performance Manager **will consider** the following competition & general measures:

(A) Competition Measures

- i. The following events are deemed identified key events for the purposes of selection for the European Championships Para Dressage 2025. All combinations eligible for selection will be expected to compete at at least **two CPEDI3*'s**, of which at least one has to be ridden in Europe:
- CPEDI3* Fontainebleau – 17-4 / 21-4 2025
 - CPEDI3* Waregem – 25-4 / 27-4 2025
 - CPEDI3* Addington – 28-4 / 30-4 2025
 - CPEDI3* Mannheim – 30-4 / 6-5 2025
 - CPEDI3* Stadl Paura – 22-5 / 25-5 2025
 - CPEDI3* Hagen – 5-6 / 8-6 2025
 - CPEDI3* Wellington – 5-6 / 11-6 2025
 - CPEDI3* Kronenberg – 12-6 / 15-6 2025
 - CPEDI3* Hartpury – 29-6 / 6-7 2025
 - CPEDI3* Ornago – 3-7 / 6-7 2025
- ii. To assess the performances of Combinations, the Para Dressage High Performance Manager will look at all the results

obtained at the events mentioned above. The Para Dressage High Performance Manager will consider the results with emphasis on the Grand Prix A and Grand Prix B tests followed by consideration of the results in the Freestyle.

- iii. Across the identified key events, the Para Dressage High Performance Manager will look for consistency of scores over 68%. Combinations should note that the Para Dressage High Performance Manager reserves the right to consider scores below 68% should same be merited, particularly where combinations are promising combinations for the future.
- iv. Each Athlete is required to fill out a Performance Outcome Profile (POP) for each horse at two key events at CPEDI3* level.
- v. Athletes will have to complete their POPs prior to each key event wherein they will set a scoring range for their Grand Prix A Test, Grand Prix B test and Freestyle. Athletes are required to submit their POPs by the Monday before the event takes place to the High Performance Para Dressage Manager.
- vi. Athletes are required to submit their finalised POPs by the Monday after the event takes place to the High Performance Para Dressage Manager.

Thereafter:

- vii. The trend in average Grand Prix A and Grand Prix B scores in 2024 and 2025.
Scores in 2025 will be given greater weight than scores obtained in 2024.
- viii. The overall quality of the start list (determined by FEI rankings of the other athletes and their current form), the star level of the panels of judges and the star level of the shows.
- ix. The experience of the athlete and horse as a combination and their ability to cope with the pressures and challenges of the [CH-EU-PED](#).
- x. The degree of commitment to the HSI Para Dressage High Performance Programme.

An athlete may request special consideration for competing at less than two CPEDI3*s by submitting a written request prior to the start of the identified key event to the Para Dressage High Performance Manager and approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

- 1. The athlete/horse combinations scores and consistency of scores at CPEDI3*'s since January 1, 2024;
- 2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
- 3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian and / or physician(s) approved by HSI;
- 4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency; and/or

5. Cancellation of Event(s).

If the Para Dressage High Performance Manager approves the above exception for the athlete to whom the exception was granted, one may also require an additional home visit or a live online session to monitor ongoing "state of preparedness." If a home visit or live online session is requested, the athlete must comply with the request.

(B) General Considerations

- i. The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the [CH-EU-PED](#) will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Team Veterinarian fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the season.
- ii. Athletes are required to disclose any illness or injury (however minor) to the High Performance Para Dressage Manager and Team Veterinarian. Where it becomes apparent that a selected horse is unsound or unfit to travel or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the High Performance Para Dressage Manager reserves the right to remove that combination from nomination and selection with immediate effect.
- iii. The health and fitness of the athlete to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the [CH-EU-PED](#) will be a factor in any selection decision.
- iv. Further consideration will be given to the following general measures:
 - a. Past performances and present form of the athlete and horse as a combination and an athlete or horse's historic form;
 - b. The suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas in Ermelo, NED and for the expected conditions of the [CH-EU-PED](#) (taking into account the objective of the team competition);
 - c. the ability of the Horse and/or Athlete and his/her support personnel to operate and perform in an environment which is highly regulated and pressurised;
 - d. the ability of the Athlete to prepare their Horse to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the [CH-EU-PED](#);
 - e. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
 - f. the overall composition of the Combinations that have been selected, where applicable;
 - g. demonstrated experience and/ or success at Championship level;
 - h. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a top 10 outcome with the team or a top 8 outcome individually;

- i. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve a podium finish) may be a consideration and may, in the Para Dressage High Performance Manager's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination
- j. degree of commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland Para Dressage High Performance (HP) Programme.

Section 6 – Force Majeure

- 6.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Para Dressage High Performance Manager may, at 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 or contribute 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 Para Dressage High Performance Manager to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events or other attendances must advise the Para Dressage High Performance Manager by email of this fact and the reasons thereof as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.

Section 7 - Removal of Athletes and/or horses

- 7.1 An athlete and horse as a combination, or separately, may be removed from nomination to FEI and FEI Definite Entries by the Para Dressage High Performance Manager for any reason, including in particular the following:
 - a) Violation or alleged violation of the Sport Ireland and FEI (Human) Anti-Doping protocol, policies and procedure.
 - b) Violation or alleged violation of FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules.
 - c) An adverse analytical finding following on from testing pursuant to Sport Ireland, FEI Clean Sport protocol, (Human & Equine), Horse Sport Ireland National Equine Anti-Doping Programme policies and procedures.
 - d) Violation or alleged violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations and HSI General Rules.
 - e) Violation or alleged violation of the HSI Code of Conduct.
 - f) Any action which could damage the reputation of the Sport or the Country.
 - g) Selected horse produces an adverse analytical finding following on from an assessment and/or Pre- Arrival Testing.
 - h) The Team Veterinarian determines the nominated horse unsound to travel and compete at the [CH-EU-PED](#).
 - i) The Team Veterinarian determines the selected horse incapable of travelling to the [CH-EU-PED](#) for any stated reason.
 - j) Where an athlete falls ill or sustains an injury subsequent to nomination by the Para Dressage High Performance Manager and is certified by the HSI Medical Officer or his/she designate as unfit to travel and compete.

Section 8 - Disclaimers

- 9.1 These procedures are based on FEI General Regulations, applicable FEI Sport Rules as presently known and understood. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to HSI. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and may not have accounted for every possible contingency.
- 9.2 As such, this selection policy can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil any objective within the 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.

Section 9 - Appeals

- 10.1 An eligible athlete who fails to be selected for a team place pursuant to the criteria set out in this policy, may appeal against omission from the team selection as set out in this section.
- 10.2 Limitation of Appeal - The sole grounds of any appeal are that:
- Any appeal is limited to grounds of:
- (a) bias, and/or
 - (b) failure to adhere to the relevant Athlete Selection Policy
- 10.3 Any appeal under section 9 will be dealt with by Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (Just Sport Ireland Limited) <http://sportdisputesolutions.ie/about/> SDSI is an independent dispute resolution service for Irish Sport.
- 10.4 Appeals will be heard by Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland and otherwise proceed in accordance with the time limits set out below and in accordance SDSI Arbitration Rules for final and binding arbitration. Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland Rules.
- 10.5 Notice of Appeal:
Any eligible athlete wishing to appeal against their omission from the selection must lodge a Notice of Appeal Form (Appendix A, SDSI Rules), and comply with the requirements as set out in Rule 14 and Rule 57 of SDSI Arbitration Rules. Athletes must submit the completed form within 36 hours of the publication of the FEI nominated entries on the Horse Sport Ireland website. Athletes should note that the time limit as set out in SDSI Rules 14.2 (b) does not apply in this instance.
- 10.6 Statement of Appeal:
Within 48 hours after lodging the SDSI Rules, the appellant (the athlete making the appeal) must file a Statement of Appeal as set out in Rule 14.2 (f) & (g) of SDSI Arbitration Rules, Appendix B. Athletes should note that

the time limit of (7) days as set out in SDSI Rules 14.2 (f) does not apply in this instance.

10.7 Reply

Within 48 hours from receipt of the Statement of Appeal, the Respondent (High High Performance Para Dressage Manager) shall file a "Reply Form" in accordance with the provisions of Rule 14.3 (a) & (b) and Rule 57 of the SDSI Arbitration Rules. Athletes should note that the time limit of (14) days as set out in SDSI Rule 14.2 (a) does not apply in this instance.

Ends/