



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Athlete Selection Policy for the FEI Eventing European Championships 2025

Introduction

This Policy sets out the process for selecting athletes and horses for the [FEI Eventing European Championships in Blenheim Palace \(GBR\) 18th – 21st September 2025](#).

Section 1 – Key Timelines

Date	Milestone
1st August 2025	The Eventing Team Manager publishes the Long List of athlete/horse combinations under consideration for Nominated Entries.
18th August 2025	Horse Sport Ireland submits the Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability to the FEI for the CH-EU-CCI4*L
1st September 2025	The Eventing High-Performance Manager announces the Final Selected Athlete/Horse Combinations (5 selected + 2 reserves in alphabetical order).
1st September 2025	Horse Sport Ireland submits the Definite Entries to the FEI.

Section 2 - Eligibility for Selection

- 2.1 All athletes and horses wishing to compete at the CH-EU-CCI4*-L must in the first instance achieve a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in accordance with the FEI Qualification Procedures. Please note that the achievement of the MER is basic requirement and in no way confers an obligation upon the HPM 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 Eventing 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 Eventing 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-CCI4*-L

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 The 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 until the conclusion of the EU-CH.
- 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-CCI4*-L. The decision of Horse Sport Ireland on advice from Team Veterinarian is final.

Section 5 - Specific Selection Criteria

Core Objective:

This Nomination Policy combines both competition and general criteria to guide the Eventing High Performance Manager (EHPM) in selecting Irish eventing athletes to compete at the CH-EU-CCI4*-L. The EHPM's primary objective is to nominate the most appropriate mix of horse-and-rider combinations to give Ireland the best possible chance of achieving a top-10 team finish at the CH-EU-CCI4*-L.

5.1 Assessment of Performances

In assessing the performances of combinations, the EHPM will consider the following competition and general measures:

(A) Competition Measures

i. The EHPM will primarily consider competition results achieved within the top 25% at CCI5*-L, CCI4*-L, and CCI4*-S events during **2024, and 2025**.

ii. To maximise nomination prospects, combinations should aim to produce at least one result at 4* level or higher that meets or exceeds the following standards:

- Dressage penalty score of **30.0 penalties or lower**,
- **Zero show jumping penalties** (i.e., no knockdowns or time faults),
- **Clear cross-country round**, with no more than **8 time penalties** (or no more than **20 seconds slower** than the fastest time in the class).

iii. The EHPM will consider:

- The final overall score (across all three phases) at each event referenced above;
- The scores achieved in each individual phase (dressage, cross-country, show jumping);
- The final placing of the combination at each referenced event.

Note: While overall scores and placings will be evaluated, they will not automatically rank one combination above another for selection purposes.

The EHPM may also take into account factors such as:

- Consistency of performance across multiple events,
- Rider and horse soundness and fitness,
- Ability to perform under team competition conditions.

5.2 Statistical Data

The EHPM will utilise statistical data and analysis, where available, to assist in the assessment of athlete and horse performances.

(A) General Considerations

- i. The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU-CCI4*-L 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 and provide regular updates to the team vet as to the health status.

- ii. Athletes are required to disclose any illness or injury (however minor) to the EHPM 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, following consultation with the team veterinarian, the EHPM reserves the right to remove that combination from selection with immediate effect.
- iii. The health and fitness of the athlete to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU-CCI4*-L 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 GBR and for the expected conditions of the CH-EU-CCI4*-L (taking into account the objective of the team competition);
 - c. the ability of the Athlete and his/her support personnel to operate and perform in an Championship environment which is highly regulated and pressurised;
 - d. the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
 - e. the overall composition of the team;
 - f. the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at the highest level of international competition;
 - g. demonstrated experience and/ or success at Championship level;
 - h. the ability, or potential ability, of a Horse and/or Athlete to perform under the stress and pressure of an CH-EU-CCI4*-L.
 - i. the ability of the Athlete to prepare their Horse to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the CH-EU-CCI4*-L.
 - j. consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a podium outcome;
 - k. exceptional ability of a Combination (and the potential to achieve a podium finish) may be a consideration and may, in the EHPM's sole discretion, place a Combination with less experience or consistency ahead of another Combination
 - l. degree of commitment to the Horse Sport Ireland Eventing 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 EHPM may, at their 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 EHPM to constitute extenuating circumstances;
- 6.3 Athletes unable to compete at events other attendances must advise the EHPM 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 EHPM 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 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-CCI4*-L.
 - i) The Team Veterinarian determines the selected horse incapable of travelling to the CH-EU-CCI4*-L for any stated reason.
 - j) Where an athlete falls ill or sustains an injury subsequent to selection by the Eventing High Performance Manager and is certified by the HSI Medical Officer or his/she designated as unfit to travel and compete.

Section 8 - Disclaimers

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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

- 9.1 An eligible athlete who is not included on the long list may appeal their omission in accordance with the procedures set out in this section. An eligible athlete who is not selected for the final team of five athlete/horse combinations, or who is named as a reserve and wishes to appeal their reserve status, may also appeal in accordance with the procedures set out in this section.
- 9.2 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

- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 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 published decision on the HSI website. Athletes should note that the time limit as set out in SDSI Rules 14.2 (b) does not apply in this instance.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Reply
Within 48 hours from receipt of the Statement of Appeal, the Respondent (High Performance 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/