



# BRITISH EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION EVENTING SELECTION POLICY TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Equestrian Team GB Eventing squad (the “Squad”) for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will be selected by the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) endorsed British Eventing Selection Panel (the “Selectors”) and nominated to the British Olympic Association (BOA) by the BEF for selection to Team GB.
- 1.2 References to selection for the 2020 Olympic Games (the “Games”) in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of 4 athlete/horse combinations that will be selected. Reference to “the Squad” in this Policy are to be construed accordingly. Additional ‘reserve’ combinations will also be referred to.
- 1.3 References to the “Team” relate to the 4 athlete/horse combinations who travel to the Games, of which 3 (three) will compete for the Team Competition as well as the Individual Competition at the Games. The 4th (fourth) will be the reserve/substitute.

## 2.0 Objective

The objectives of this Selection Policy are to select rider and horse combinations that will maximise the potential to:

- 2.1 Primary objective: Win the Team Gold at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
- 2.2 Secondary objective: Win Individual medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

## 3.0 Confidentiality

- 3.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the athletes, owners, selectors, staff and other parties that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.
- 3.2 Any member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection Panel. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

## 4.0 Selection Panel and Attendees

### 4.1 The Olympic Team Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Chairman of Selectors (non-voting)	Dan Hunt
Selector (voting)	Nigel Taylor, British Eventing International Director
Selector (voting)	Sarah Bullen
Selector (voting)	Mark Philips

**Non-Voting Experts Present at the Olympic Selection Meeting**

*(The individual expert's opinion may be sought from the Selectors, but they will not have a vote at the point of selection. They may contribute fully to the selection discussions when invited to do so)*

Performance Manager (PM) (non-voting except in relation to section 4.3)	Richard Waygood
High Performance Coach (HPC)	Chris Bartle
Team Veterinary Surgeon (Vet)	Liz Brown
World Class Programme Lead of Athlete Health (if required)	Ash Wallace

**Minute Taker**

BEF appointed minute taker

**Observers who may attend the Olympic Selection Meeting**

Performance Director	See PM
CEO of BEF	Iain Graham
UK Sport	Representative
BOA	Representative

- 4.2 The Chairman of Selectors will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The Chairman will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest during selection, then the selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict.
- 4.3 All Selectors, with the exception of the Chairman, will have equal voting rights. Decisions must be reached by a majority and with no abstentions, unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest. In the event that the remaining Selectors reach an equality of votes, the PM will have the casting vote.
- 4.4 The WCP Eventing High Performance Coach (HPC) will be a non-voting member of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of providing relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of anticipated performance, assessment of risk factors, recommendations regarding final preparation/training for each candidate.
- 4.5 The Team Veterinary Surgeon will be a non-voting member of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.
- 4.6 The Eventing Performance Manager (PM) will attend all selection meetings. They will not have a vote except as provided in section 4.3. They will in coordination with the HPC provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of anticipated performance, assessment of risk factors.
- 4.7 The PD will attend the final selection meeting and be responsible for the final nomination by the BEF to the BOA.

Representatives of the BOA and UK Sport will have the right to attend the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games selection meetings as observers.

- 4.8 Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this

selection policy, having regard to the criteria set out below, to use their discretion to select rider and horse combinations onto the Team. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with integrity having regard to, and acting in compliance, with any applicable code of conduct or code of ethics in force from time to time.

- 4.9 The WCP Lead of Athlete Health will attend the selection meeting if required and will, in any case, provide such information as necessary to enable Selectors to make a rational decision on an athlete's fitness and/or anticipated ability to complete the Games.

## **5.0 Policy formation**

The British Equestrian Federation Eventing Selection Policy for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is compiled in consultation with the BOA, British Eventing (BE) Board Directors, British Equestrian Board Directors, Chair BE International Director, Selectors, Athletes, PD, PM and HPC.

## **6.0 Changes in policy**

- 6.1 The Selectors will have the right in exceptional circumstances (e.g. force majeure) to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the Chairman of Selectors, PD and the PM. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all Athletes (as directed by the Selectors), the BE International Directors by e-mail and the section revised will be published on the BE/BEF website.

## **7.0 Minimum eligibility requirement & availability for consideration for selection**

- 7.1 The BE International Secretary will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including:
- a. The athlete must be a national of the United Kingdom and in compliance with the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 119 at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games ("the Games"). Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Games.
  - b. The athlete has been granted a license by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
  - c. The athlete is eligible under any anti-doping code ie not serving a competition ban as a result of a proven doping or controlled medication violation, or other breach of ethical conduct and is not in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport.
  - d. The athlete is a full and active member of British Eventing (BE) and are not serving any suspensions under BE rules.
  - e. The horse is fully registered with BE for 2020.
  - f. Neither athletes or horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Tokyo

2020 Olympic Games under BEF, BOA, FEI, BS or IOC rules.

- g. All athletes being considered for selection will be deemed to have accepted that they, their horses and support teams may be required to take part in Pre-Export Quarantine.
- h. All athletes will be expected to comply with reasonable requests intended to support optimal performance preparation for themselves and their horses, in particular, but not limited to, those specifically aligned to the anticipated environmental conditions and competition format.

7.2 In addition, as a condition of selection for the 2020 Games, an athlete/horse combination must meet the following criteria:

- a. To be able to participate in the Games all athlete/horses must achieve, as a combination, the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) comprising FEI Certificate of Capability (FEI Qualification-Games of the XXXII Olympiad-Tokyo 2020 Equestrian-Jumping C and FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 607.2.2). The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website.  
See <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/tokyo-2020> .
- b. The athlete must have been born on or before December 31, 2002 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games Horses, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition Article 606.1.2).
- c. To be eligible for participation in the Games, athletes and horses must comply with all current FEI Regulations, the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including, but not limited to, Rule 40 (Participation in the Olympic Games), Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions).
- d. A horse must be born on or before December 31, 2012 (eight years of age) and have a height at the withers exceeding 1.48m without shoes ( FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 606.2.1 and FEI Jumping Rules, 26<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 254.1.1).
- e. Horses entered for the event must have been registered with the FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the Athlete by 15 January 2020 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 606.2.2.1). Horses with multinational ownership must be registered with the FEI by 15 January 2020 under the name of the nation for which the horse will compete during the Games ( FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 606.2.2.2).
- f. The National Federation (NF) of a horse belonging to a partnership or a syndicate of owners must inform the FEI by the date of the OCOG/IOC accreditation date (entry by number) for NOC's: 10 April 2020, of the name of one (1) owner to ensure they are entered in the Olympic accreditation system ( FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 620.2).
- g. No commercial prefix or suffix will be included with the name of horse on any Olympic participation/entry list, start list or results. The FEI will reserve the right to amend any horse's name accordingly (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games,

24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 606.2.5).

- h. Athletes will be obliged to sign the BOA Team Members Agreement and to abide by the Equestrian Team GBR charter.

## **8.0 Qualification period**

- 8.1 The qualification period for Teams and Individuals will be in accordance with the FEI qualification guidelines, (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 628), which are available at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/tokyo-2020> .

## **9.0 Squad size**

- 9.1 A Squad of 4 (four) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which three will make up the Team and will compete in the Team Competition and Individual Competition. The fourth Squad member will be the Team Reserve/Substitute. All squad riders will be expected to comply with all Quarantine and preparation requirements. Failure to do so could result in the athlete/horse combination being removed from the squad list.
- 9.2 The Selectors will also select a number of reserve combinations (the exact number will be decided in consultation with the PM/PD/HPC/Team Vet). The Selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order. Reserves will be expected to comply with all Quarantine and preparation requirements. Failure to do so could result in the athlete/horse combination being removed from the reserve list.

## **10.0 Selection criteria**

- 10.1 The Selectors will take into account the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion to select combinations onto the Squad. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.

- a) The athlete/horse combination's results. Due regard will be given, when considering results, to:
- Past and present results from 4\*L/S and 5\* events from Jan 2019 until the end of the Olympic Qualifying period
  - the standing of the judges and the competition
  - the difficulty of the cross country/showjumping courses
  - the terrain
  - the quantity and competitiveness of the starters
  - the likely contribution of the combination to win medals/achieve the objectives set out in section 2
  - the commitment of the rider to preparing optimally for the championship as outlined by the PM/HPC, team vet and human health team for each combinations specific requirements to produce optimal results in the Tokyo environment

- b) Although the performance in all three phases will be taken into account by the

Selectors, they reserve the right to select an athlete/horse combination with an outstanding talent or record in one of the three phases of the competition, if it is in the interests of achieving the Objectives of the Selection Policy.

- c) Fitness and soundness of the horse. All horses under consideration will be required to be examined by the World Class Programme veterinary surgeon (or another appointed veterinary surgeon if necessary). Athletes are obliged to notify the World Class Programme veterinary surgeon of any change in their horses' health status or veterinary management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the World Class Programme veterinary surgeon to ensure that the selectors can make rational decisions and specific support can be instigated where required.
- d) Fitness of the human athlete to compete to their full potential. An athlete must declare any current or ongoing physical or mental reason that may impair their ability to perform at their peak on any given day in Tokyo. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
- e) The World Class Programme medical Officer/ WCP Lead of Athlete Health may also pass judgement on a riders' capacity to compete optimally from a medical perspective. However, it is noted that this is done confidentially and without any detail of the issue without a rider's explicit consent.
- f) Behaviour of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including without limitation, owners, partners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
- g) Willingness of the athlete and his/her owners, coaches, Sport Science & Medical staff, grooms and others that may be assisting the athlete during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, to abide by the World Class Code of conduct and the BOA Team Members Agreement.
- h) Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
- i) Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.

10.2 The Selectors, in collaboration with the PM and HPC, may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, tests or competitions where they deem this appropriate and necessary prior to selection. The PM will inform the athletes concerned of the details regarding these requirements.

## **11.0 Selection process**

11.1 The Selectors will hold the long (nominated) list meeting on or around the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The nominated list will comprise of 9 (nine) athlete/horse combinations and 3 (three) athlete/horse reverse combinations to be nominated by the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

11.2 The Selectors will select the Squad of 4 athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Tokyo 2020

Olympic Games (which may or may not be set out in order of preference of 3 (three) Team riders and 1 (one) travelling reserve), plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or around 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selectors reserve the right to nominate the 4 athlete/ horse combinations to travel to the Games on a 'no order' basis, which shall mean that - notwithstanding that one combination will necessarily need to be technically nominated as a reserve for sport entry purposes – the decision as to which 3 athlete/horse combinations will actually be selected to compete may be deferred until arrival and up to 2 (two) hours before the start of the dressage at the Olympic Games as set out in para 12 (twelve) below.

- 11.3 The PM will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until they are formally notified of the BOA ratification of their selection by the PD/PM and are subject to the requirements of a BOA Team Announcement.
- 11.4 The BOA in consultation with the PD will announce the Squad for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on or around 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 11.5 The three athletes (and Reserve/Substitute) that will compete for the Team and Individual medals will be announced in line with the timelines outlined in the Olympic Handbook.
- 11.6 **Key Dates:**
- 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Deadline for athlete and horses to achieve the FEI minimum eligibility requirements (MER). FEI Nominated Entries – FEI to receive FEI Certificates of Capability
  - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Sports entry deadline.

## **12.0 Post selection**

### **12.1 Team/running order**

12.1.1 The PM and HPC in consultation with the Team Vet and PD will decide the three Team Members (if not announced before departure) and the proposed running order. The PM and HPC will inform athletes accordingly at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel and the ground/weather conditions and the health of the rider to compete to their maximum potential. The Team and Team running order will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity. This decision will not be contestable, it will be final. The PM may also subsequently make amendments to the Team and the order at any time up to two hours before the start of the dressage phase, if deemed necessary to do so. Again, this decision will be made with absolute discretion, honesty and integrity and will not be contestable, it will be final.

## **13.0 Maintaining form**

- 13.1 Selection decisions are subject to the athlete and horse maintaining fitness and performance. Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected they must maintain their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the HPC. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss proposed amendments with the HPC or PM, could lead

to the athlete/horse combination being de-selected.

#### **14.0 De-selection**

- 14.1 De-selection of a Squad member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Squad and the date of the Delegation Registration Meeting in early July 2020 (date TBC). The final decision as to whether to substitute, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, HPC, PD and Team Veterinary Surgeon.
- 14.2 After announcement of the Squad, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, the decision as to whether to de-select/ replace the athlete will be made by the PM and HPC following an examination by a World Class Programme approved Human SSM Practitioner and in consultation with the PD. This may involve the athlete being asked to ride certain dressage movements or jump selected fences on their selected horse. Being unfit to compete is best described as “not being able to ride their horse in a manner which allows the athlete to produce the standard of performance at which they were selected”.
- 14.3 In the case of a horse being considered unfit, due to veterinary reasons, to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, the decision will be made by the PM and HPC following an examination by the World Class Programme approved veterinarian and in consultation with the PD.
- 14.4 After the Delegation Registration Meeting with Tokyo 2020, de-selection/ replacement decisions for “the squad” may only be made by the BOA in consultation with PD in exceptional circumstances (such as injury or illness) in accordance with the IOC Late Athlete Replacement Policy).

#### **15.0 General**

- 15.1 Discretion - In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors will be entitled, within the provisions of this Policy, to exercise their discretion to achieve the Objective where it is reasonable to do so.
- 15.2 Code of conduct/charter - Athletes, owners, grooms and athlete’s “home teams” are expected to abide by any Equestrian Team GBR and BOA Team GB Charters which may be in force, as well as the BE and BEF Code of Conduct.
- 15.3 Athletes and their support teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, BEF, BOA, the World Class Programme or BE into disrepute or potentially negatively affect performance. Athletes must at all times behave in accordance with the BOA team members agreement.
- 15.4 Clean sport - Selection is subject to compliance with FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on human anti-doping.
- 15.5 Cancellation/postponement - In the event of cancellation of the 2020 Games the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement a situation might arise where a new and/or different Squad needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.



- 15.6 Force majeure - In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or BE's control, e.g. disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, withdrawal of World Class funding, the BEF Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD, BOA and Chief Executive of the BEF, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from competition.
- 15.7 Communication (publication) - The Selection Policy will be placed on the BE and BEF website and copies will be available on request from the BE/BEF office.
- 15.8 Enquiries - Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BE/BEF office or the PM.
- 15.9 Point of contact - The PM is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

#### **16.0 Appeals process and procedures**

- 16.1 Athletes have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors but only on the grounds that the Selectors have failed to comply with this Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the BEF in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process") within 48 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.
- 16.2 A copy of the Appeal must also be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BE. The Chief Executive Officer of BE shall, on receipt of the notice of appeal, seek to bring together all parties for a without prejudice discussion that may, if all are agreed, take the form of facilitated mediation.
- 16.3 For the avoidance of doubt the Appeal Process shall continue to run during the course of such discussion. However, in the event that both parties notify the BEF (within 48 hours of receipt of the notice of appeal) that such discussion/mediation has resolved the Appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed. The Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website and copies of the Selection Appeal Rules can be obtained from the BEF office.

#### **17.0 Conditions of remaining selected**

- 17.1 It will be expected that selected and reserve athletes adhere to all reasonable training, preparation, quarantine, media, code of conduct and team meetings requirements. Failure to do so may result in the rider being de-selected.