

# **British Eventing Selection Policy for the European Championships for Ponies 2020**

## **Introduction**

The British Eventing Squad (the "Squad") for the 2020 European Eventing Championships (the "Championships") will be selected by the British Eventing Selectors (the "Selectors") and entered through the British Equestrian Federation.

## **References**

References to selection for the Championships in this Policy refers to selection of a Squad of up to 6 athlete/horse combinations that will be selected and references to the "Squad" in this Policy are to be construed accordingly.

References to the "Team" refer to the 4 athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team and Individual medals at the Championships;

References to the "Individuals" refer to the 5th and 6th athlete/horse combinations that will compete only for the Individual medals.

## **Objective**

The objective of the Selection Policy is to select a Squad that will be competitive for medals at the European Championships

## **Confidentiality**

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. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection process. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

## **Selection Panel**

The Chairman of Selectors will be appointed by the British Eventing Board. The Chairman will then appoint the Selectors in consultation with the BE Chief Executive. The Chairman and Selectors will have the knowledge and experience required to select championship teams and will be free from all vested interests/conflicts of interest in as far as is possible. The term "Selectors" throughout this document refers to the Chairman of Selectors and the appointed Selectors.

The Chairman of Selectors 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 selector has a conflict

of interest during selection then the selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict.

All Selectors 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).

### **Policy Formation**

The British Eventing Selection Policy for Championships is compiled by the Chairman of Selectors in consultation with the BE Board of Directors.

### **Changes in Policy**

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 fulfill the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the Chairman of Selectors and the BE Chief Executive. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors) by email and the section revised will be published on the BE Website.

### **Eligibility/availability for consideration**

The Chairman of Selectors along with British Eventing will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including:

- He/she is a British passport holder
- Has been granted a license by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in International Events according to Article 117 of the FEI General Regulations
- is qualified for the forthcoming Championships and that the horses available for selection have correct ownership, and that neither horses nor athletes are for any reason not allowed to take part in the forthcoming Championship under BE, BEF, FEI or BOA rules.

In addition, as a condition of selection for the Championships an athlete:

- must be eligible according to the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI Regulations
- must abide by the Terms and Conditions of the Rider Agreement

### **Qualification Period**

The qualification period for horses and athletes will be in accordance with FEI regulations, which are available at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## Squad Size

A squad of up to 6 athlete/horse combinations will be selected of which four will make up the Team and will compete for the Team and Individual medals. The Squad athletes who are not in the Team will compete with the Team members for the Individual medals. The Selectors will also select a number of Reserves. The Selectors may or may not prioritise the list of Reserves.

## Selection Criteria

- The Selectors will take in to account the criteria set out below to use their absolute discretion to select combinations onto the Squad. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.
- The athlete/horse combination's results. Due regard will be given when considering results of the levels of competition, the difficulty of the cross country and jumping courses, the terrain, the competitiveness of the starters, and the rate of progress of the combination.
- Although the results in all three phases will be given due consideration the Selectors reserve the right to select an athlete/horse combination with an outstanding talent or record in one of the three Eventing phases if it is in the interests of the Objective of the Selection Policy.
- Fitness and soundness of the horse – the advice of the Team Vet or another appointed veterinary surgeon may be sought. Athletes should notify the Team Vet of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately. Soundness is a key factor when selection is being made.
- Fitness of the athlete – the advice of the BE Chief Medical Officer or another appointed Medical Officer may be sought if necessary
- Willingness of the athlete or his/her parents, owners, coach, groom or others that may be assisting the athlete during the Championships, to contribute to the Objective of the Selection Policy.
- Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Championships.
- Demonstration of behavior that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- The selectors recommend that athlete/horse combinations that wish to be considered for selection should complete a minimum of 4 competitions during the 2020 season plus the CCI2\*for ponies at Belsay International prior to the selection date 3rd June. The Selectors reserve the right to select athlete/horse combinations that have not fulfilled this recommendation if it is in the interest of achieving the Objective of the Selection Policy.
- As a guide for competitors, they as combinations should aspire to achieve an average dressage score of 65% or above, an average show jumping score of 4 penalties or better and an average cross country score of no more than 10 penalty points slower than the fastest time in the class.

## **Selection Process**

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

The Selectors will meet in order to select the Squad and Reserves as required.

## **Veterinary**

As part of the selection process the advice from the Team Vet and other veterinary surgeons if so required, will be taken into consideration. There may be an official inspection which all horses must attend and where a blood test may be taken. Alternatively, the official inspections may take place at athletes' yards or at a competition. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the Team veterinary surgeon.

## **Athlete Fitness**

Fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential will be taken into consideration by the Selectors when selecting the Team and Reserves.

## **Announcement of the Squad for the 2020 Championships**

The Selectors will select the Squad of up to 6 athlete/horse combinations to compete at the 2020 Eventing European Championships, plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or about date 8th June 2020. Should the date for nominated entries be prior to this date the selectors will select prior to this date a squad of 6 athlete/horse combinations that will be then entered as the Nominated Entries.

Once the Selectors have made their decision, it is the Chairman's responsibility to inform athletes and owners if their horses have been selected or not and as clearly as possible outline to the athletes and owners the reasoning behind the selection without disclosing details that can be detrimental to either athletes' or horses' future. BE will announce the Squad once the Chairman advises that it has been determined and all parties informed

## **Post Selection**

### **Running Order**

The Chairman of Selectors in consultation with his/her selectors and the Team Coach will decide the Team running order. The Chairman will inform athletes and owners accordingly. The Chairman may make amendments to the Team running order in consultation with the selectors and the Team Coach and if deemed necessary to do so.

## **Maintaining Form**

Athletes should note that Selection decisions are subject to the horse/athlete retaining fitness/performance (see Substitution below). Once a horse/athlete combination has been selected they must maintain their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the Team Coach. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss amendments to the programme with the Team Coach could lead to the athlete/horse combination being substituted.

## **Substitution**

Substitution of a Squad member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Squad on or about the 3rd June 2020 and the submission of Definite Entries. The final decision whether to substitute, whatever the reasoning will be made by the Selectors.

However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either, the relevant athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution or the performance of the athlete/horse combination has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Not following an agreed competition and or training programme post selection could lead to a significant drop off of performance.

In the case of an athlete being considered medically unable to compete the decision will be made by the Chairman following an examination by BE's CMO.

In the case of a horse being considered unable due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated this decision will be made by the Chairman following an examination by the Team Vet.

## **Code of Conduct**

Athletes, owners, grooms, parents, and athletes' "home teams" are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport or BE in to disrepute.

## **Clean Sport**

Selection is subject to compliance with BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules ("BEFAR"), FEI and WADA Rules on doping and medication control for Human and Equine.

## **Weather**

The weather conditions likely at the Championships will have been considered in selection, however, should there be drastic change for some reason there might be cause for alterations to be made to the Team and/or the Team running order everyone concerned will be notified and the explanation given as soon as practicable.

### **Cancellation/postponement**

In the event of cancellation of the championships the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement a situation might arise where a new and/or different team or individuals need to be selected in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

### **Force Majeure**

In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BE's control eg disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the British Eventing Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the Chairman of Selectors and Chief Executive of BE, to either change the Selection Policy or the procedure. This could include withdrawing the British Team from the competition.

### **Communication.**

The Chairman of Selectors is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

### **Appeals Process and Procedures**

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 both the Chief Executive of BE and to the BEF in accordance with the BEF Appeal Rules (the "Appeal Process") within 48 hrs of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.

The Chief Executive 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 a facilitated mediation. 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 that such discussion/mediation has resolved the appeal [within 48 hours of receipt of the notice of appeal], the Appeal Process shall be stayed. The Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website and copies can be obtained from the BEF office.