

BRITISH EQUESTRIAN EVENTING SELECTION POLICY TOKYO 2020 (2021) OLYMPIC GAMES

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The British Equestrian Eventing squad (the “Squad”) for the Tokyo 2020 (2021) Olympic Games will be selected by British Equestrian (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 (2021) Olympic Games (the “Games”) in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of four (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 “Squad” relate to the four (4) athlete/horse combinations who travel to the Games, of which three (3) will compete for the Team Competition as well as the Individual Competition at the Games and be known as the “Team”. The fourth (4th) athlete/horse combination 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 (2021) Olympic Games.
- 2.2 Secondary objective: Win Individual medals at the Tokyo 2020 (2021) 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	TBC
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 (Vet) 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 (2021) 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 Eventing Selection Policy for Tokyo 2020 (2021) Olympic Games is compiled in consultation with the BOA, British Eventing (BE) Board Directors, British Equestrian Board Directors, Chairman of Selectors, 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 Director by e-mail and the section revised will be published on the BE and BEF websites.

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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in compliance with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) General Regulations, 24th Edition, Article 119 at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of the Tokyo 2020 (2021) 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, 24th Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
- c. The athlete is eligible under any anti-doping code i.e. 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 not serving any suspensions under BE rules.
- e. The horse is fully registered with BE and the FEI for 2021.
- f. Neither athletes or horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Tokyo 2020 (2021) 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 (2021) 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 (2021) Equestrian-Eventing C and FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24th Edition, Revised Qualification System Eventing, published 20 May 2020. 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 31 December, 2003 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games Horses, 24th 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 31 December, 2013 (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, 24th Edition, Article 606.2.1 and FEI Jumping Rules, 26th 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 2021 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24th Edition, Article 606.2.2.1). Horses with multinational ownership must be registered with the FEI by 15 January 2021 under the name of the nation for which the horse will compete during the Games (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24th 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: 25th April 2021, 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, 24th 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, 24th Edition, Article 606.2.5).
- h. Athletes will be obliged to sign the BOA Team Members Agreement and to abide by the British Equestrian 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, published on the 20 May 2020), which are available at:
<https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/tokyo-2020>

9.0 Squad size

- 9.1 A Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which three (3) 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. The first (1st) reserve horse will be expected to travel to Liege with the Team horses in case there is a veterinary issue with one of the Team horses

which is subsequently deemed unfit to travel and compete in the Games.

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 January 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 Team Vet (or another appointed veterinary surgeon if necessary). Athletes are obliged to notify the Team Vet 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 Team Vet 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 Chief Medical Officer/ WCP Lead of Athlete Health may also pass judgement on an athlete's 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 an athlete's explicit consent.
- f) Behaviour of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including,

without limitation, owners to, 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 (2021) Olympic Games, to abide by the World Class Programme code of conduct and the BOA Team Members Agreement.
- h) Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Tokyo 2020 (2021) 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 11 May 2021. The nominated list will comprise of nine (9) athlete/horse combinations and three (3) athlete/horse reserve combinations. The nine (9) athlete/horse combinations will be nominated by 21 June 2021.

11.2 The Selectors will select the Squad of four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Tokyo 2020 (2021) Olympic Games (which may or may not be set out in order of preference of three (3) Team riders and one (1) travelling reserve), plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or around TBC 15 or 21 June 2021. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selectors reserve the right to nominate the four (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 three (3) athlete/horse combinations will actually be selected to compete may be deferred until arrival and up to two (2) hours before the start of the dressage phase at the Olympic Games as set out in section 12 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 (2021) Olympic Games on or around TBC 19 or 24 June 2021, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

11.5 The three (3) 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:

- 21 June 2021: Deadline for athlete and horses to achieve the FEI minimum eligibility requirements (MER). FEI Nominated Entries – FEI to receive FEI Certificates of Capability
- 5 July 2021: 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 (3) Team Members (if not announced before departure) and the proposed running order. The PM and HPC will inform athletes accordingly at the Tokyo 2020 (2021) Olympic Games after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel, 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 (2) 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 2021 (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 Vet.

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 (2021), 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 British Equestrian 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 (2021) 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 Programme 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 websites 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 24 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: <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook>

17.0 Team Members’ Agreement/Charter/Code of Conduct

17.1 Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes’ “home teams” should behave at all times in a manner that does not potentially negatively affect performance or bring into disrepute the sport, BOA, BEF, WCP or BD, and at all times behave in accordance with the BOA Team Members’ Agreement, the British Equestrian Charter and the BD Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in any selection decisions regarding an athlete being impacted negatively or if already selected could result in de-selection.

17.2 The BOA Team Member’s Agreement (TMA) comes into force on the date an athlete is notified by the BOA that they have been selected as a member of Team GB. Selection as a Team member, and continued membership of Team GB, is conditional upon athletes signing the TMA which will be communicated to athletes at the Nominations stage.

18.0 Conditions of remaining selected

18.1 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.