

British Eventing Selection Policy for the Junior European Championships 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The British Eventing Squad (the “Squad”) for the European Junior Championships (the “Championships”) will be selected by the British Eventing Youth Performance Selectors (the “Selectors”) and entered by British Eventing
- 1.2 References to selection for the Championships in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of up to six athlete/horse combinations that will be selected and references to the “Squad” in this Policy are to be construed accordingly.
- 1.3 References to the “Team” refers to the four athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team Competition as well as the Individual Competition at the Championships.
- 1.4 References to the “Individuals” refers to the remaining two athlete/horse combinations that will compete only for the Individual Competition.

2 DEFINITIONS

“Athlete and his/her support team”. the athlete and his/her owners, coaches, grooms, family members and others that may be assisting the athlete during the Championships.

“BE”. British Eventing.

“Chair”. The non-voting Independent Chair of Youth Performance Selectors.

“Championships”. The European Junior Championships.

“Individuals”. The remaining two athlete/ horse combinations that will compete only for the Individual Competition.

“Selectors”. The British Eventing Youth Performance Selectors.

“Selectors’ Panel”. The five BE Youth Performance Selectors who have equal voting rights, plus the following non-voting members: the Chair, the YPM, the Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons.

“Squad”. The British Eventing Squad of six for the European Junior Championships from which the Team and Individuals will be chosen.

“Team”. The four athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team Competition as well as the Individual Competition.

“Youth Performance Coaches”. The coaches appointed to be the Youth Performance Coaches.

“Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons”. The veterinary surgeons appointed to be the Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons. They are non-voting members of the Selection Panel.

“YPM”. Youth Performance Manager.

3 OBJECTIVE

- 3.1 The objectives of this Selection Policy are to select rider and horse combinations that will maximise the potential to win Team and Individual medals.

4 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.

5 SELECTION PANEL

- 5.1 The Selection Panel consists of the five voting Selectors, the non-voting Chair, the non-voting YPM and the non-voting Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons. Although the YPM is a non-voting member of the Selection Panel, he will have a casting vote in the event of the Selectors reaching an equality of votes (see Paragraph 5.4, below).
- 5.2 The Selectors will have the knowledge and experience required to select championship teams and will be free from all vested interests/conflicts of interest in so far as is possible.
- 5.3 The Chair will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The Chair is a non-voting member of the Selection Panel. The Chair will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any real or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. If a voting Selector has a real conflict of interest during selection, then the Selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict. The Chair will decide if a Selector must step down from discussion because of a perception of conflict.
- 5.4 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. In the event that the remaining Selectors reach an equality of votes, the YPM will have the casting vote.

- 5.5 The YPM 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.
- 5.6 The Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons will be non-voting members of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.
- 5.7 The Youth Performance Coaches are not members of the Selection Panel. Their opinions will be transmitted to the Selectors through the YPM.
- 5.8 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.

6 POLICY FORMATION

- 6.1 The British Eventing Youth Selection Policy for the Championships is compiled by the Chair in consultation with the YPM and then approved by the BE Board of Directors.

7 CHANGES IN POLICY

- 7.1 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 Chair and the YPM. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all Athletes (as directed by the Selectors) and the YPM by e-mail and the section revised will be published on the BE website.

8 ELIGIBILITY & AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION

- 8.1 The BE International & Youth Performance Co-ordinator will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including:
 - 8.2 That the athlete holds a British passport;
 - 8.3 That the athlete/horse combination is qualified for the forthcoming European Championships;
 - 8.4 That the horses available for selection have eligible ownership status.
 - 8.5 That neither horses nor athletes are, for any reason, ineligible to take part in the forthcoming Championships under BE, BEF or FEI rules.
 - 8.6 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 Eventing Regulations and will be obliged to abide by the BE Code of Conduct.

9 QUALIFICATION PERIOD

- 9.1 The qualification period for horses and athletes will be in accordance with FEI Eventing regulations, which are available at www.fei.org.

10 SQUAD SIZE

- 10.1 A Squad of up to a maximum of six athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which four will make up the Team and will compete for in the Team Competition. The Squad athletes who are not in the Team will compete, alongside the Team members, in the Individual Competition.
- 10.2 The Selectors will also select a number of reserve combinations (the exact number will be decided in consultation with the YPM. The Selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order.

11 SELECTION CRITERIA

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 The athlete/horse combination's results. Due regard will be given, when considering results, to 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.
- 11.3 The likely contribution of the combination to win medals/achieve the Objectives.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 Fitness and soundness of the horse. The professional opinion of the Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons or another appointed veterinary surgeon will be sought. Athletes are obliged to notify the YPM 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 Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons.
- 11.6 Fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential.
- 11.7 Willingness of the athlete and his/her support team, to contribute to the Objectives of the Selection Policy, and abide by the BE Code of Conduct.
- 11.8 Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Championships.
- 11.9 Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.

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

12 SELECTION PROCESS

12.1 The Selectors will announce a long list on or around the 1st June 2021.

12.2 The Selectors will select the Squad of six athlete/horse combinations to compete at the European Championships, Serfersjo, 2021, plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or around 26th June 2021 subject to receiving the FEI official schedule.

12.3 The YPM will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors.

12.4 The YPM, in consultation with BE Marketing Team, will announce the Squad for the European Championships 2021 on or around 26th June 2021, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

13 POST SELECTION

13.1 Running order. The YPM will decide the four Team Members and the proposed running order. The YPM will inform athletes accordingly on arrival at the Championship venue, after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel and the ground/weather conditions. The YPM may subsequently make amendments to the Team running order after the first Horse Inspection, if deemed necessary to do so.

14 MAINTAINING FORM

14.1 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 YPM. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss proposed amendments with the YPM, could lead to the athlete/horse combination being substituted.

15 SUBSTITUTION

15.1 Substitution of a Squad member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Squad and departure to the European Championships. The final decision as to whether to substitute, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the YPM, Youth Performance Coaches and Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeon.

15.2 After announcement of the Squad, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, the decision as to whether to substitute the athlete will be made by the YPM and Youth Performance Coaches following an examination by a World Class Programme approved Human SSM Practitioner and in consultation with the YPM. 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”.

15.3 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 YPM following an examination by at least one of the Youth Performance Veterinary Surgeons and in consultation with the YPM.

16 GENERAL

16.1 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.

16.2 The athlete and his/her support team are expected to abide by the BE Code of Conduct which will be provided to the athlete by the BE International & Youth Performance Co-ordinator.

16.3 The athlete and his/her support team are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, the BEF or BE into disrepute or potentially negatively affect performance.

16.4 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.

16.5 Cancellation/postponement - In the event of cancellation 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.

16.6 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, the BE Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the YPM and Chief Executive of the BEF, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from competition.

16.7 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.

16.8 Enquiries - Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BE International & Youth Performance Co-ordinator.

16.9 Point of contact - The YPM is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

17 APPEALS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

- 17.1 Athletes have the right to appeal against a selection decision of the Selectors but only on the grounds that the procedures detailed in this Selection Policy were not followed or the Selection Decision was a decision which no rational body of selectors could reasonably have made.
- 17.2 An Appeal must be made by lodging a Notice of Appeal with the Chief Executive of the BEF within 48 hours of Notification of the Selection Decision, in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules.
- 17.3 A copy of the Notice of Appeal must also be submitted to the Chief Executive of BE. 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.
- 17.4 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.
- 17.5 The BEF Selection Appeal Rules can be found on the BEF website or a copy can be obtained from the BEF office or from the BE International & Youth Performance Co-ordinator.