

European Championship

CH – EU – CCI4* Avenches – 23–26 September 2021

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The British Equestrian eventing squad (the “Squad”) for the European Championship 2021 will be selected by the British Eventing (BE) Selectors (the “Selectors”) and entered and supported by British Equestrian (BEF) through its World Class Programme (WCP).
- 1.2 References in this Policy to selection for the Championship refer to the Squad of six (6) 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” pertain to the four (4) athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete for the Team Competition in addition to the Individual Competition at the Championship.
- 1.4 References to the “Individuals” refers to the remaining two (2) athlete/horse combinations that will compete only for the Individual Competition.

2.0 Objective

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

- 2.1 Primary objective: Win the Team Competition gold medal at the Championship.
- 2.2 Secondary objective: Win as many Individual Competition medals as possible at the Championship.
- 2.3 Tertiary objective: To give the option to use the Team and Individual places to provide championship experience to potential World Equestrian Games (WEG)/Olympic Games combinations.

3.0 Confidentiality

- 3.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of this 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

4.1 The non-voting Chairman of Selectors and two (2) voting Selectors will be nominated by an Interview panel consisting of the Performance Director (PD) and/or the CEO of the BEF, the Eventing Performance Manager (PM), the CEO of BE and a Board Member from BE. These nominations will be ratified by the BE Board, in consultation with the WCP PD and PM. The third selector will automatically be appointed from his/hers position on the BE Board as International Director. The voting Selectors will all 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. The term "Selectors" throughout this document refers to the Chairman of Selectors and the appointed Selectors.

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 they 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 Championship Team Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

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

Non-Voting Experts present at the selection meeting

(An 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 selection meeting

Performance Director	See PM
CEO of BEF	Jim Eyre
UK Sport	Representative

- 4.5 The WCP Eventing High Performance Coach 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, and recommendations regarding final preparation/training for each candidate.
- 4.6 The Team Veterinary Surgeon will be a non-voting member of the Selection Panel with the sole purpose of reporting on horse soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 The PD and representative(s) of UK Sport will have the right to attend all selection meetings, but will not have a vote.
- 4.9 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 athlete/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.
- 4.10 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 Championship.

5.0 Policy formation

- 5.0 The British Equestrian Eventing Selection Policy for the European Championship 2021 is compiled in consultation with the BE Board of Directors, the BEF Board of Directors, BE International Directors, Selectors, athletes, PD, PM and HPC.

6.0 Changes in policy

- 6.1 The Selectors will have the right in exceptional circumstances (such as 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 and the PM. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors), the PD and the BE International Directors by e-mail, and the revised section will be published on the BE and BEF websites.

7.0 Eligibility and 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 Championship. Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Championship.
- 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 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 Championship under BEF, FEI or BE rules.
- g. 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.
- h. In addition, as a condition of selection for the Championship, an athlete/horse combination must be eligible according to the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI Eventing Regulations and will be obliged to abide by any British Equestrian charter which may be in force.

8.0 Qualification period

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

9.0 Squad size

9.1 A Squad of up to a maximum of six (6) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, of which four (4) will make up the Team and will compete in the Team Competition. The Squad

athletes who are not in the Team will compete, alongside the Team members, in the Individual Competition.

- 9.2 The Selectors will also select a number of reserve combinations (the exact number will be decided in consultation with the PM/HPC/Team Vet). The Selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order.

10 Selection criteria

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

- The athlete/horse combination's results. When considering results, due regard will be given to:
 - past and present results from CCI4* and CCI5* events, including CCI-L, CCI-S and CCIO-NC-S.
 - 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 or achieve the objectives set out in section 2.0
 - 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 combination's specific requirements in order to produce optimal results in the environment

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.

- Fitness and soundness of the horse. The professional opinion of the Team Vet or another appointed veterinary surgeon will be sought. 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.
- 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. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
- Willingness of the athlete, along with his/her owners, coaches, sport science and medicine (SSM) staff, grooms and others that may be assisting the athlete during the Championship, to contribute to the objectives of the Selection Policy, and abide by any British Equestrian charter which may be in force.

- The World Class Programme Chief Medical Officer or WCP Lead of Athlete Health may also pass judgement from a medical perspective on an athlete's capacity to optimally compete. However, it is noted that this is done confidentially and without any detail of the issue without an athlete's explicit consent.
- Behaviour of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation to, owners, partners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
- Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Championship.
- 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 Selection process

11.1 The Selectors will announce a long list on or around 21 June 2021.

11.2 The Selectors will select the Squad of six (6) athlete/horse combinations to compete at the European Championship 2021, plus reserves (which may or may not be set out in order of preference), on or around 17 August 2021, subject to receiving the FEI official schedule.

11.3 The PM will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors.

11.4 The PM, in consultation with the BEF and BE, will announce the Squad for the European Championship 2021 on or around 20 August 2021, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

11.5 The four (4) athlete/horse combinations that will compete for the Team medals will be announced in line with 2021 FEI Eventing regulations.

Post selection

12 Running order

12.1 The PM and HPC, in consultation with the Team Vet, will decide the four (4) Team members and the proposed running order. The PM and HPC will inform athletes accordingly on or before arrival at the Championship venue, after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel and the ground/weather conditions. The PM may subsequently make amendments to the Team running order after the first Horse Inspection, if deemed necessary to do so.

13 Maintaining form

- 13.1 Selection decisions are subject to the athletes and horses 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 substituted.

14 Substitution

- 14.1 Substitution of a Squad member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Squad and departure to the European Championship. The final decision as to whether to substitute, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM, HPC 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 substitute them will be made by the PM and HPC following an examination by a WCP-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 to compete due to veterinary reasons, or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, the decision will be made by the PM and HPC following an examination by the Team Vet or a WCP-approved veterinarian and in consultation with the PD.

15 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 Policy objectives where it is reasonable to do so.
- 15.2 Code of conduct/charter – Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes’ “home teams” are expected to abide by any British Equestrian charter which may be in force.
- 15.3 Athletes and their support teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, BEF, the WCP or BE into disrepute or potentially negatively affect performance.
- 15.4 Clean sport – Selection is subject to compliance with FEI and BEF equine anti-doping and controlled medication rules, and FEI, BEF and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules on human anti-doping.
- 15.5 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.

- 15.6 Force majeure – In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or BE’s control, such as disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, withdrawal of World Class Programme funding, the BE Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD and CEO 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 published 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. 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 CEO of the BEF in accordance with the [BEF Selection Appeal Rules](#) (the “Appeal Process”) within 24 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors’ decision.
- 16.2 A copy of the appeal must also be submitted to the CEO of BE. The CEO 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 and copies of the Selection Appeal Rules can be obtained from the BEF office.