



PARA REGIONAL SELECTION POLICY 2026

1 OBJECTIVE OF SELECTION POLICY

- 1.1 The over-riding objective of the Para Selection Policy is to guide selection of regional teams in a fair, equitable and transparent way. Selection for Para Teams is open to all British Dressage members aged 12 or over.
- 1.2 Selection is subject to compliance with British Dressage, BEF and FEI Rules on doping and medication control for Humans and Equines.
- 1.3 The Selection Policy applies to the selection of combinations/teams for the following:
 - **Para Home Nations Competition**

2 CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

- 2.1 The Development Officer (DO) is responsible for ensuring that all riders, horses and ponies available for selection have current full British Dressage membership.
- 2.2 It is the parents'/riders' responsibility to ensure that combinations are eligible for selection at their nominated level, according to the rules and schedule at the close of entry. Only combinations fulfilling the criteria stated in the Selection Policy will be considered for selection.
- 2.3 Riders applying for consideration for selection MUST ensure their availability for the dates of the respective competition they are applying for. Received applications will deem to be automatic acceptance of the published competition dates.
- 2.4 Selected riders will be required to stable onsite for the duration and must attend the overall prize giving at the end of the competition.
- 2.5 Riders may only represent their region in one category each calendar year (i.e., BD Youth or Seniors). Para riders may go forwards for the Para Home Nations and one other regional team competition in the same calendar year.

3. PARA TEAMS ELIGIBILITY

Participating in regional training ensures access to high-quality instruction from fully qualified and insured BD accredited coaches. It also fosters team spirit and the opportunity to form new friendships.

- 3.1 Riders are required to attend **two** regional training events in the 12-month period preceding the cut-off date for training and results. BD training events are categorised as activities listed on the regional Horse Monkey booking system, including Flexi training. Attendance at Regional training in other regions may be included and riders should inform their DO if they have attended training in another region.

- 3.2 At least **one** of the events must be ridden and can be accrued by attending a regional activity or any BEF training day.
- 3.3 Residential camps including regional training camps and Para Academies will be counted as **two** BD regional training events.
- 3.4 **One** non-ridden educational session will count towards eligibility (e.g., Zoom events, veterinary talks, volunteering at a venue, writing / marshalling / scoring etc.) if age appropriate, This list is not exhaustive. Events not mentioned may count if agreed with your DO, so please check.
- 3.5 **One** ridden session may be to ride as a demonstration rider at an official BD event.
- 3.6 Riders will be required to provide competition results and details of their training criteria via an online application. All applications must be submitted on or before the cut-off date for team applications.
- 3.7 The Para Home Nations is open to Para riders aged 12 years and over and must have a Para Equestrian National or FEI Classification.
- 3.8 One rider on each team may have competed in a CPEDI 3* since January 2023. Riders who have competed in a World, European or Paralympic Championships are not eligible.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1 The Selectors reserve the right not to send a team or individual to any competition.
- 4.2 A rider may submit scores from multiple horses or apply with a single horse at multiple levels. However, a team space will be allocated to just ONE combination.
- 4.3 In exceptional circumstances (for example, if the region has too few riders who meet the required eligibility levels), this restriction may be waived, with the approval of the Sport Operations Manager.

Para Home Nations Requirements:

- Attendance at two BD training sessions (as defined above).
- Three scores at affiliated para dressage competitions (including BD Para Intro Classes, Para / FEI PYO classes, and CPEDI scores) in the 12 months preceding selection. Only scores achieved at the relevant grade can be considered.
- Those riders who have only competed in RDA competitions may submit qualifying RDA Championship scores in their relevant Grade for the current year, plus scores from the previous RDA Championships, for consideration.
- Freestyle scores and virtual online dressage competitions cannot be considered.
- Scores from previous Para Home Nations can be used, provided they were achieved in the 12 months preceding selection and can be verified.

5. SELECTION PROCESS

- 5.1 The average score of each combination will be calculated and selection will be based on the highest average scores at each grade.
- 5.2 Where different riders' average scores are within 2%, selectors will review each rider's competition record and any other relevant information. Selection decisions will be finalised from the following:

- Consistency and recent form at the level for which the combination is applying
- Past form at major/team events
- Results gained from a panel of judges

5.3 A list of selected combinations and reserves will be published on the regional pages of the BD website and regional social media pages following selection on the publicised team announcement date.

5.4 Selection Dates

Competition scores and regional training being used for selection should be achieved in the 12 months prior to the cut-off date in the table below.

Date of Competition	Event	Applications Open	Cut-Off Dates for Training and Results	Teams Verified	Teams Announced	Entries Close
30 & 31 August 2026	Para Home Nations, Pickering Grange	1 May 2026	21 June 2026	6 July 2026	20 July 2026	17 August 2026

5.5 Eligibility for classes

There is additional information about which horses or riders are eligible to take part in each class. Please see the BD Members Handbook 2026 for general rule number 189 (page 186) and rule 194 (page 188) for regional team competitions and eligibility.

5.6 Each team will comprise of four riders and each team can have no more than two riders of the same grade.

6. SELECTION PANEL

- 6.1 All Selectors will be appointed by the British Dressage Regional Committees. They will have the knowledge and experience required to effectively select teams and will be as free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest as is possible. A register of Declarations of Interest will be maintained by the CEO of British Dressage and is available for inspection.
- 6.2 If any member of the Selection Panel would like to be considered for selection, then they must stand down from the Selection Panel for the relevant event and should not take part in any of the selection processes for this event.
- 6.3 If any one of the Selectors is either the parent/legal guardian or has regularly trained any rider who is being considered for selection, they must not take part in the selection decision involving that individual.
- 6.4 In the event of the Para Representative and / or the Regional Chair being a Para Coach in that region they must step down from selection and be replaced by a non-involved individual. In the case of the Para Representative, they may still participate in the selection process in an advisory but non-voting capacity.

- 6.5 The Para Selection Panel will comprise the following:
- Para Representative
 - Regional Chair
 - One other individual considered to have suitable experience and no conflict of interest

- 6.6 Final team selection will be independently verified by a senior representative of British Dressage before the teams are announced and riders notified.

7. CHANGING REGION

- 7.1 Riders are eligible for regional teams in the region relevant to their home postal address or in another region which the rider has opted to represent.

- 7.2 The rider must inform both the relevant DOs, prior to submitting their team application form, if they elect to represent a region different to their home postal address.

- 7.3 A rider may only ride for one region in any calendar year.

8. SUBSTITUTION

- 8.1 The Selectors may substitute a team member for a reserve between the announcement of the Team up to 5pm the evening before the competition. However, a substitution should only occur in the case of rider health or a veterinary concern.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 9.1 It is vitally important that there is a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection. This applies to all those involved, including riders, owners, selectors, and other officials.

10. TEAM SPIRIT

- 10.1 Team spirit is of the utmost importance. British Dressage expects riders, families, and supporters to commit willingly to all aspects of preparation for team competitions as laid down by their region. Riders will be expected to agree and abide by a team code of conduct.

- 10.2 Riders selected to represent their region in the Para Home Nations will be expected to attend a virtual team information meeting hosted by their region prior to the event.

11. FITNESS

- 11.1 While good results in competitions are important, the onus is on the riders not to over campaign their horses / ponies.

- 11.2 It is important that riders plan, so they and their horse / pony are in the best form for the Para Home Nations competition.

12. FINANCE

- 12.1 All Home Nations competitions will be entirely self-funded by riders. Regions may conduct fund-raising activities to assist riders with the funding of attendance at the competition. Details will be available via the DO.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR HORSE WELFARE AND MEMBERS

- 13.1 There must be commitment from all riders to adhere to the British Dressage code of conduct for Horse Welfare and for Members, upholding the highest standards at all times. Please refer to the relevant sections in the 2026 BD members' handbook for full details.

14. RULES

- 14.1 All selected riders agree to abide by the rules of the competition at all times.

15. POLICY CHANGES

- 15.1 The Para Technical Committee will have the right to amend or change selection policies where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Selection Policy as long as these changes and amendments are clearly communicated to all parties.

16. CANCELLATION / POSTPONEMENT

- 16.1 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.

17. FORCE MAJEURE

- 17.1 In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond British Dressage's control (e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war, or terrorism), the British Dressage Board reserves the right to make the decision either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which may include withdrawing the Teams from competition or cancelling the competition.

18. VETERINARY / MEDICAL

- 18.1 Selected riders must immediately notify their DO of any change in their own health or fitness status, their equine health status, or any veterinary / medical management that is being undertaken.

19. ENQUIRIES

- 19.1 Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made by contacting the DO in the first instance.

20. OBJECTION PROCESS

- 20.1 The decision of the Selectors is final and binding and not subject to an appeals process.
- 20.2 An athlete may raise an Objection to the Selection Decision, but an Objection may only be made upon the following grounds:
- 20.2.1 That the Selectors have failed to comply with the procedural requirements in this Selection Policy which had a material effect on the Selection Decision, or
- 20.2.2 That the Selectors have made their decision based on a material error of fact, which would have had a material effect on the Selection Decision.

- 20.3 An athlete wishing to object to the Selection Decision should raise their Objection in writing to the BD Chief Executive. Objections must be received within 48 hours of the athlete being notified of the decision.
- 20.4 The Objection must set out the grounds, as detailed in 20.2 above, and include the evidence and any other documentation or information relied upon.
- 20.5 The Chief Executive will review the Objection, in consultation with the Head of Sport. They will either:
- 20.5.1 Refer the decision back to the Selectors,
 - 20.5.2 Replace their own decision for the purposes of Selection, or
 - 20.5.3 Reject the grounds for the Objection.
- 20.6 The Chief Executive will provide a written decision based on the information provided as soon as is practically possible, and in any event within 48 hours of the Objection. Their decision shall be final, and not subject to any further review or appeal.

Lou Jones
Head of Sport
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