

British Dressage Senior Selection Policy for

Big, Middle and Small Tour CDIs 2026 (Updated Jan 2026)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for CDIs 2026. The athlete/horse combinations will be selected by the British Dressage (BD) Selection Panel (the Selectors) in accordance with this Policy.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The purpose of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential to achieve its objectives:
- To optimise preparations to those identified as contenders for the FEI Dressage World Championship 2026 by facilitating entries into appropriate international competitions.
 - To provide international competition experience to those considered to be on a trajectory for a podium performance at future Senior Championships, by facilitating entries into appropriate international competitions.
 - To enable athlete/horse combinations opportunities to broaden competition experience with the aim of supporting performance progression at Big, Middle and Small Tour level by facilitating entries into appropriate international competitions.

3. Confidentiality

- 3.1 It is vital for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the athletes, owners, selectors, staff, and other parties, that there is always a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.
- 3.2 Any member of the Selection Panel or individual/s attending a Selection Meeting, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality, may be removed from future selection meeting involvement.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Chief Selector and BD International Director (ID) (voting)
Selector (voting)
Selector (voting)

Judy Harvey
Jenny Ward
Anne Keen

- 4.2. Non-voting experts may be invited to attend Selection Meetings, in person or remotely:

- World Class Programme (WCP) Senior Team Manager/Chef d'Equipe (TM/CdE)
- WCP Dressage Manager (DM)
- WCP Programme Support Representative/s
- BD appointed veterinary surgeon

The individual expert's opinion may be sought by Selectors, but they will not have a vote at the point of selection. They may contribute to selection discussions when invited to do so.

- 4.2.1. The purpose of the non-voting experts is to support the Selectors in choosing athlete/horse combinations by providing relevant evidence and insight. This includes, but is not limited to, contributing to the selection process, assessing past and projected performances, and identifying potential risk factors.

- 4.2.2. A non-voting attendee, either the BD International Officer (IO), Lianne Martin, and/or an alternative nominated individual, may be present at Selection Meetings, in person or remotely.

- 4.3. All Selectors and any non-voting experts will declare any potential or perceived conflict of interest as soon as they arise using the Conflict of Interest Declaration form. The IO will maintain a register and is responsible for informing the BD Chief Executive (BD CEO). If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector must step down from discussion/s involving the conflict.

- 4.4. Decisions must be reached by a majority vote and with no abstentions unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest. In the event of an abstention by one of the Selectors, and the remaining Selectors reaching an equality of votes, the ID will have the casting and deciding vote. In the event of the ID being required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest, one of the remaining Selectors, as nominated by the BD CEO, will have the casting and deciding vote.

- 4.5. Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and, in accordance with this Selection Policy, shall be entitled to use their discretion in selecting athlete/horse combinations for CDIs, having regard to the Minimum Performance Standards (MPS) and the Selection Guidelines set out below. Such discretion must be exercised honestly, fairly and with integrity, and in compliance with any applicable Code of Conduct and/or Code of Ethics in force from time to time.

5. Policy formation

- 5.1. The British Dressage Senior Selection Policy for CDI competitions is compiled in consultation with the BD Board of Directors, the BD CEO, the BD Selectors and the WCP TM/CdE and DM.

6. Changes in Policy

- 6.1 The Selectors will have the right, in exceptional circumstances, to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time to fulfil the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the BD CEO and the ID. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the ID) and will be published on the BD website.

7. Eligibility requirements

- 7.1 To be eligible for selection consideration to represent Great Britain athletes must comply with the following:

- a. Be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland holding a current valid UK passport that is compliant with government guidelines and with the FEI General Regulations 24th edition, Article 119 at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of 2026.
- b. The athlete has been granted a licence by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with the FEI General Regulations, 24th edition, Articles 113 and 117.
- c. The athlete and horse are not, for any reason, ineligible to take part in, and/or be considered for any competition under British Equestrian Federation (BEF), FEI or BD rules.
- d. The athlete must be eligible under any FEI, BEF (BEFAR) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) anti-doping code ie not serving a competition ban as a result of a proven human or equine doping or controlled medication violation or other breach of ethical code.
- e. The athlete is not in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport.
- f. The athlete is a full (competing) member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BEF/FEI/BD or any other Member Body rules.
- g. The owner of the horse is a full (competing or non-competing) member of BD and not serving any suspension under BEF/FEI/BD or any other Member Body rules.
- h. The athlete is fully registered with the FEI for 2026.
- i. The horse is fully registered with the FEI and BD for 2026.
- j. Amateur classes: An Amateur athlete must possess a valid Amateur licence granted by the National Federation (NF). The Amateur licence must be renewed with the NF every year. Athletes should contact the IO at BD for further information. Full details on FEI Amateur licence rules can be found in Annex 3 of the FEI Dressage Rules and on the BD website:

<https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/get-involved/international-dressage/senior-international/senior-selection-information/>

8. Selection Process for athlete/horse combinations to be considered who have not yet competed at an FEI Senior CDI competition

- 8.1. Prior to being considered for selection athlete/horse combinations will be expected to have achieved MPS (table below) a minimum of once within the 14 months before the combinations first FEI International competition and the competition definite entry deadline they wish to be considered for.
- 8.2. To be considered for competitions at CDI3*/CDIO3* level and below horses may be ridden in a snaffle bridle.
- 8.3. After completing the requirements outlined in Section 7 and 8 athletes should apply to the IO requesting to be added to the International Competition List. After which they must notify the IO of any competitions they wish to be considered for.
- 8.4. Scores and qualifications will be checked by the IO.

MINIMUM PERFORMANCE SCORES (MPS)

To be considered to compete at:	Final score of:	Tour	Competition Level (see a. /b. /c. below)
Foreign CDI	70%	Small	Intermediate 1
Home CDI*	68%	Small	Prix St George/ Intermediate 1
Foreign or Home * CDI	67%	Middle	Intermediate 11/ Intermediate A or B
Foreign or Home* CDI	67%	Big	Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special

MPS for AMATEUR CLASSES ONLY

To be considered to compete at:	Final score of:	FEI Tour name	Competition Level (see a. / b. below)
@ Foreign or Home * CDI	65%	Bronze	Junior Team, Junior Individual UK Based riders – Advanced Medium 6 Non UK based riders – Advanced Medium
	65%	Silver	Young Rider Team, Young Rider Individual, Prix St George
	66%	Gold	Prix St George / Intermediate 1
	65%	Platinum	Intermediate 11 / Intermediate A or B
	65%	Diamond	Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special

* Home denotes country of residence

a. British athletes based and competing in the UK:

Score/s to be achieved at the relevant competition level at one or more of the following:

BD National or Winter Championships, BD Premier League competitions, BD High Profile shows (Gold Section only).

b. British athletes based and competing abroad:

Score/s to be achieved at the relevant level at a CDN. In addition, athletes must send a video of their qualifying test via WhatsApp to the IO at least three weeks before the entry deadline of the competition they wish to be considered for.

c. Young Riders:

Those who competed at the 2025 Young Rider European Championships and scored 68% or higher in either the team or individual tests (excluding Freestyle) will be considered for Small Tour level in 2026 Home Internationals (CDI) without achieving the MPS (see table below), provided they ride the same horse. The IO will notify eligible athletes at the start of 2026

9. Selection Process for athlete/horse combinations to be considered who have competed in an FEI Senior CDI competition

- 9.1 Athlete/horse combinations should have been selected for and competed in a FEI Senior CDI competition within the 14 months preceding the competition definite entry deadline they wish to be considered for.
- 9.2 Athlete/horse combinations progressing to a higher competition level must have achieved the MPS (table above) at the competition level they wish to be considered for, in accordance with Section 8.1.
- 9.3 All athlete/horse combinations must comply with any FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) for the competition level at which they are aiming to compete in accordance with FEI Dressage Rules, 26th Edition, Articles 401.7
- 9.4 To be considered for competitions held at CDI/CDIO4* and above at Big Tour level, combinations must have competed in a CDI/CDIO3* in a double bridle.
- 9.5 Athlete/horse combinations who are selected and compete in an FEI CDI/CDIO and achieve a final score of less than 65% at Small Tour and at Middle/Big Tour level less than 64% may be, before any further selection consideration, requested to re-achieve MPS. The IO will notify the riders concerned.
- 9.6 After completing the requirements outlined in Section 7, 8 and 9 athletes should apply to the IO requesting to be added to the International Competition list. After which they should notify the IO of any competitions they wish to be considered for.
- 9.7 Scores and qualifications will be checked by the IO.

10. Selection Guidelines

- 10.1. The Selectors will consider the following factors in alignment with the Objectives of the Selection Policy (section 2):
 - a. The number of invitations Great Britain (GBR) receive for each FEI senior international competition.
 - b. The athlete/horse combination's scores/performance trajectory and development during the qualification period.

- c. Reasons and justification for any incomplete competitions due to withdrawal, retirement or elimination.
- 10.2 The Selectors will have the right to select athlete/horse combinations for FEI senior international competitions that may not have met MPS, if it is in the interest of fulfilling the Objectives of the Policy (in accordance with Section 2).

11. Selection Conditions

As a condition of selection an athlete/horse combination shall abide with the following:

- a. The BEF Equine Ethics and Welfare Policy
https://bit.ly/BEF_Equine_Ethics_Welfare_Rules
- b. The BEF Team Charter
<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/assets/About%20the%20BEF/Team%20charter.pdf>
- c. BD Code of Conduct
<https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/membership/members-handbook/>.
- d. Once selected if the athlete later withdraws without a veterinary or medical certificate, this may affect future selection. Any costs involved will be the athlete's responsibility.

12. Selection Decisions and Timelines

- 12.1. Meetings and Communication: The Selectors will meet or communicate, in person or remotely, as often as needed to select athlete/horse combinations for Senior CDI competitions.
- 12.2. Selection numbers: Based on the Organising Committee's invitations, Selectors will choose the athlete/horse combinations that form the confirmed entries and reserves.
- 12.3. Evaluation and Ranking: Selectors will assess all athlete/horse combinations applying for each Senior International CDI. Selected combinations will be listed alphabetically by surname, while reserves will be ranked. Reserves will move up in case of withdrawal or additional places. Selectors retain the right not to send any riders to a Senior CDI.
- 12.4. Private invitations: Athletes with potential private invitations must notify the IO. Private invitations require Selection Panel approval and must have achieved MPS. Selectors will not favour private invitation athletes over those selected based on OC allocations, except at the IO's discretion.
- 12.5. Notification of Selection: After each Selection meeting, the IO will confirm selection information to athletes via e-mail, and it will be assumed there is a continued commitment to competition attendance on the part of the athlete.
- 12.6. Withdrawal by an Athlete: Athletes wishing to withdraw pre-competition must immediately inform the IO.

13. General

- 13.1. Cancellation/postponement – in the event of cancellation of any competition, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement of any competition, a situation may arise where new and/or different athlete/horse combinations needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and the normal procedure for selection will be followed, wherever possible.
- 13.2. Force majeure – in the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or BD's control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or withdrawal of WCP funding, the BD Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the BD CEO, ID and WCP TM/CdE, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure for selection, which might include withdrawing the team and/or individuals from competition.
- 13.3. Communication – this Selection Policy will be published on the BD website.
- 13.4. Enquiries – via email to Lianne Martin: lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk

14. Appeals Process and Procedures

- 14.1. 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 the Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach.
- 14.2. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the BD CEO, in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the "Appeals Process"), within two working days of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.
- 14.3. The BD CEO 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.
- 14.4. For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeal Process shall continue to run during such discussion. However, in the event that all parties notify the BD CEO (within one working day 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>

**Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive
December 2025**