



British Dressage Selection Policy For P/J/YR/Ch CDI/CDIOs 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for FEI P/J/YR/Ch CDI / CDIO competitions in 2026. The athlete and horse / pony combinations will be selected by the British Dressage (**“BD”**) Selectors (**“the Selectors”**) in accordance with this Policy and will be entered for the relevant competition by BD.
- 1.2 This Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BD Board of Directors, BD International Director (**“ID”**), Selectors and BD Chief Executive (**“CEO”**).
- 1.3 The Selectors are entitled in exceptional circumstances to amend or revise this Selection Policy where they reasonably consider it necessary to do so to best achieve the objectives of the Selection Policy set out in Section 2 below.
 - 1.3.1 The amendments or revisions to this Selection Policy must be approved in writing by the BD Chief Executive (CEO) and the International Director (ID).
 - 1.3.2 The amended or revised clauses will be communicated to all U21 international athletes in a manner directed by the ID and Selectors, and the full amended or revised Selection Policy will be published on the BD website.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The Selectors shall select (in accordance with this Selection Policy) the athlete and horse / pony combinations that in their view will most likely maximise the potential to achieve the objectives set out in this section of the Selection Policy (**“the Objectives”**).
 - To optimise preparation for those athlete and horse / pony combinations identified as having potential to achieve a team place at the relevant FEI Under 21 European Dressage Championships 2026, through participation in relevant international competitions.
 - To offer opportunities for development and progression through participation in international competition to those athlete and horse / pony combinations considered to have the potential to become future FEI Under 21 European Championship team contenders.
 - To provide athlete and horse / pony combinations with the opportunity to compete in international competitions, where possible, to develop their experience and support performance progression.

3. Selection Panel

- 3.1 The athletes representing Great Britain will be selected by the British Dressage voting Selectors.
- 3.2 The Selectors have been appointed by the British Dressage (BD) Board based on having the knowledge and expertise required to select athletes to represent Great Britain at this level and are free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest, in so far as is possible.
- 3.3 The Selection Panel shall comprise the following:
- Chief Selector – Richard Baldwin (voting)
Selector – Stephen Arnett (voting)
Selector – Nick Bigland (voting)
- International Director (ID) – Judy Harvey (casting vote only, as per clause 3.5)
- In attendance (non-voting):
Performance Manager – Nina Boex
Secretariat – U21 International Officer
- 3.4 All Selectors will have equal voting rights. They will use their discretion honestly and with due integrity, having regard to and acting in compliance with any applicable BD and BEF codes of conduct and/or code of ethics in force.
- 3.5 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 a majority decision not being achieved or possible, or due to a declared conflict of interest, the ID will have the casting vote.
- 3.6 The Selection Panel will be provided with relevant scores in advance (obtained from the BD and FEI website), and relevant performance evidence to support them in their selection decisions. The information will be prepared by the Performance Manager and U21 International Officer.

4. Eligibility for Consideration for Selection

- 4.1 Athlete and horse / pony combinations are eligible for consideration for selection provided that:
- The athlete is a British Citizen with a current British passport valid for a minimum of six months after the date of competition.
 - The athlete is a full (competing) and active member of British Dressage and is not subject to and/or not serving any suspension under BD rules.
 - The horse / pony is fully registered with British Dressage.
 - The legal horse / pony owner is a full (competing or non-competing) member of British Dressage.
 - Both athlete and horse/pony have the appropriate and current FEI license(s) issued via the application process undertaken by the British Equestrian Federation (BEF), in accordance with Article 113 and 117 of the FEI General Regulations; and they have satisfied all eligibility and qualification criteria under the BD, BEF and FEI Dressage rules and regulations for the competition.

- 4.2 In advance of any selection the BD U21 International Officer will ensure that each athlete and horse / pony combination available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain based on the eligibility criteria above.

5. Selection Criteria for International Competitions 2026

- 5.1 The Selectors will act as experts and are entitled, within the boundaries of the Selection Policy and selection criteria, to use their absolute discretion to select the best athlete and horse / pony combinations to fulfil the Objectives of this policy.
- 5.2 Athlete and horse / pony combinations who wish **to be considered** for selection for CDI/CDIO competitions must meet the following Minimum Performance Criteria:
- 68% or above – FEI Pony Team Test, FEI Pony Individual Test
 - 68% or above – FEI Junior Team Test, FEI Junior Individual Test
 - 68% or above – FEI Young Rider Team Test, FEI Young Rider Individual Test
 - 68% or above – FEI Children on Horses Team Test (final technical mark), FEI Children on Horses Individual Test (final technical mark)
- 5.3 A Minimum Performance Score (MPS) can be achieved at any of the following competitions in the specific FEI Youth Team or Individual classes:
- CDI/CDIO – Domestic or International
 - BD Premier League Show
 - BD High Profile Show
- 5.4 Completion of the International Horse Care Certificate is compulsory for all riders attending a CDI/CDIO/European Championship.
- 5.5 **Combinations based abroad**
- Athlete and horse / pony combinations must have achieved the Minimum Performance Score outlined in Para 5.2 above at a CDI/CDIO or at an equivalent National Competition, subject to prior agreement with and subsequent competition video review by the Selectors.
- 5.6 Combinations that have represented GB at an FEI European Championships can be selected the following season for CDI/CDIO competitions. This can include those moving up from Juniors to Young Riders, if this is considered by the selectors to fulfil the Objectives of this policy. This will be subject to the Selector's review and approval of competition video evidence provided at the required level.
- 5.7 The Minimum Performance Score must have been achieved in the six calendar months prior to the Definite Entries date of the CDI / CDIO that the athlete and horse / pony combination is in consideration for.
- 5.8 For domestic CDIs Selectors can exercise their discretion when considering minimum performance scores to maximise the opportunity to fill the full quota of places allocated.
- 5.9 Achievement of the Minimum Performance Score (see Section 5.2 and 5.3) does not guarantee selection.
- 5.10 All tests to be ridden in accordance with FEI rules.

- 5.11 No whips may be used in any minimum performance score tests.

6. Continuing Performance Criteria

- 6.1 For the duration of this Selection Policy any athlete and horse / pony combination competing in a CDI/CDIO must achieve / have achieved a minimum percentage of 66% in either the Team Test or Individual Test at that competition.
- 6.2 Failure to achieve the minimum percentage in two consecutive CDI/CDIOs, including withdrawal and / or elimination, will result in a reassessment before the athlete and horse / pony combination can be selected for future CDI/CDIOs. Athlete and horse / pony combinations will be required to fulfil Section 5.2 and 5.3 again before they can be considered for entry into a future CDI/CDIO.
- 6.3 Selection for a consecutive CDI/CDIO, mentioned in 6.2 above, is subject to the Minimum Performance Criteria laid out in Para 5.6; i.e., this must be within the six calendar months prior to the Definite Entries date of the CDI/CDIO the athlete / horse / pony is in consideration for.
- 6.4 Scores gained in a Consolation Test (Team or Individual) or Freestyle to Music Test at that competition will not be taken into account.

7. Selection Process

- 7.1 Following the achievement of the Minimum Performance Score a combination will be added to a list held by the U21 International Officer of those eligible for consideration for a CDI/CDIO.
- 7.2 Upon receipt of the schedule for a CDI/CDIO (or four weeks prior to the show, whichever is sooner), the U21 International Officer will email the eligible athlete and horse / pony combinations to request expressions of interest for that show. These expressions of interest will then be forwarded to the Selectors for their consideration. Selection remains at the discretion of Selectors and is not guaranteed. Athletes new to international level should be aware that the Selectors' preference will be to send the combination to a domestic CDI for their first international competition.
- 7.3 The Selectors will select the requisite number of athlete and horse / pony combinations for each show in accordance with the Objectives of this Selection Policy. The number will be dictated by the FEI Schedule and accompanying FEI Dressage rules. If applicable, a wait/reserve list in order will be drawn up.
- 7.4 Athletes able to gain private invitations to specific FEI CDI P/J/YR/Ch competitions should inform the International Officer if that option is available to them. They may be requested to take up that option to access additional places. Private invitations will not take priority over an athlete and horse / pony combination selected by the Selectors to compete at any given CDI/CDIO.
- 7.5 Athletes will be informed if they have been selected to compete at a CDI/CDIO by the U21 International Officer by email, within the time frames indicated in the show schedule and/or FEI entry system.

- 7.6 Athletes should confirm their acceptance with the U21 International Officer, who will be responsible for submitting the entry on the FEI system prior to the close of Definite Entries. Athletes are responsible for their own costs, as indicated within the show schedule.
- 7.7 Should an athlete and horse / pony combination have to withdraw prior to the Definite Entries stage, the U21 International Officer will contact the next combination on the wait/reserve list.

8. Selection criteria for BD U21 International Pathway Squad 2026

- 8.1 Minimum criteria for Squad inclusion:
- A combination must have achieved a minimum of two scores at 68% in the relevant FEI Team or Individual Test at a High Profile or Premier League show.
- and / or
- In the Selector's professional opinion, there must be clear potential for European team inclusion, either in the current competition year, or in future years.
- 8.2 Inclusion on the Squad is on a rolling calendar year basis; inclusion is subject to FEI age category related criteria and ceases on attainment of the upper age limit for each level. Future inclusion is then subject to the criteria in Section 6 of this CDI/CDIO Selection Policy.
- 8.3 Inclusion on the Squad gives priority to a combination for CDI/CDIO selection and priority for test riding / training dates, as organised by British Dressage, over a qualified but non-squadded combination.
- 8.4 Where a breach of the minimum performance criteria has been incurred due to a veterinary issue, continued inclusion on the Squad will be subject to review (including video) by the Selectors and may require the combination to requalify, as per Section 6 of this policy.

9. Withdrawals

- 9.1 Once an athlete and horse / pony combination has committed to compete at an international show (via email to the U21 International Officer) they are expected to compete. However, if they find at any time that they must withdraw, for whatever reason, they are obliged to notify the BD U21 International Officer and the Performance Manager (PM) immediately.
- 9.2 The U21 International Officer is responsible for withdrawing the athlete's entry on the FEI system.
- 9.3 After Definite Entries have taken place, any withdrawal costs incurred are the responsibility of the athlete. A veterinary / medical certificate may be required before a withdrawal is accepted.

10. Other Considerations in Support of the Selection Policy

10.1 Conflicts of Interest

- 10.1.1 In order to protect the integrity of the Selection Process, Selectors shall not take any measure, nor exercise any influence, in relation to a matter where any conflict of interest or any other conflict exists or is perceived to exist.
- 10.1.2 Selectors must therefore take all reasonable steps to avoid situations where there may be a potential conflict of interest, whether that is a real or perceived conflict of interest.
- 10.1.3 All conflicts of interest will be declared to the BD CEO and recorded by the U21 International Officer, so that they can be managed in an appropriate manner. The BD CEO will proactively manage any conflicts on a regular basis and throughout the selection process to ensure the integrity of the selection decisions.

10.2 Confidentiality

- 10.2.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the athletes, parents / guardians, owners, Selectors, staff, and other parties, that there is a high degree of confidentiality relating to any information which may have a bearing on selection.
- 10.2.2 Any member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection Panel. All selection related conversations and discussions will be confidential.

10.3 Code of Conduct

- 10.3.1 Athletes, parents / guardians, owners, trainers, grooms, and athletes' support teams are expected to abide by any BD and/or British Equestrian Athlete/Parent Code of Conduct which may be in force. Any current Code of Conduct/Team Charter can be found on the BD website at: www.britishdressage.co.uk/our-sport/international-teams/youth-international/selection-and-squads.
- 10.3.2 Athletes, parents / guardians, owners, trainers, grooms, and athlete support teams are expected to behave in a manner that does not negatively affect performance or bring the sport into disrepute.
- 10.3.3 Any breach in the BD and/or British Equestrian Charter and/or Athlete/Parent Code of Conduct by any athlete, parent/guardian, or a member of their support teams, including the misuse of social media, will result in disciplinary action and may lead to exclusion from any international involvement.

10.4 Clean Sport

- 10.4.1 Selection is subject to compliance with FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on anti-doping. BEF equine anti-doping and controlled medication rules (BEFAR) and BEF human anti-doping rules. The current equine and human prohibited substances lists can be found on the BEF website: www.britishequestrian.org.uk. Further information on human anti-doping can be found on the WADA website at www.wada-ama.org.

10.5 Cancellation / Postponement

- 10.5.1 In the event of cancellation, the relevant parties will be notified immediately. In the event of postponement, a situation might arise where new combinations may need to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.
- 10.5.2 In the event of exceptional circumstances (force majeure) beyond BD's control, such as disease outbreak in horses or humans, war, or terrorism, the British Dressage Board, in consultation with the ID and BD Chief Executive, reserves the right to make the decision either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing individuals from competition.

10.6 Point of Contact

- 10.6.1 The International Director is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy. The point of contact for riders wishing to discuss their intended competition plans is the U21 Performance Manager.

10.7 Finance

- 10.7.1 All international competitions will be entirely self-funded by athletes. Chefs d'Equipe may be appointed to travel to international competitions to provide additional support to combinations at the ID / PM's discretion, in consultation and with agreement of the BD CEO.

10.8 Home Trainers

- 10.8.1 Home trainers will be expected to work under the direction of, and in co-operation with, the nominated Coach Advisor for the benefit of the athlete and horse / pony combination. To enable the home trainer and Coach Advisor to achieve the best results, it is anticipated that eligible riders based in the UK will attend the officially organised training camps, ideally with their home trainers.

11.0 Objection Process and Procedures

- 11.1 The decision of the Selectors is final and binding and not subject to an appeals process.
- 11.2 An athlete may raise an Objection to the Selection Decision, but an Objection may only be made upon the following grounds:
 - 11.2.1 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
 - 11.2.2 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.
- 11.3 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.

- 11.4 The Objection must set out the grounds, as detailed in 11.2 above, and include the evidence and any other documentation or information relied upon. Objections received outside of this time limit, or that fail to meet the criteria set out in 11.2, will be rejected.
- 11.5 The BD Chief Executive shall, on receipt of this Objection, investigate the matter further and may seek to bring together all parties for a 'without prejudice' discussion that may, if all are agreed, take the form of a facilitated mediation meeting which should ordinarily take place within 48 hours of the receipt of the Objection.
- 11.6 Following the initial investigation, and in the event that any without prejudice discussion has not achieved an agreement, the BD Chief Executive will refer the Objection to a Review Panel, consisting of the BD Chair, the International Director and one Independent Non-Executive Director to review the decision.
- 11.7 Members of the Review Panel must not have any conflict of interest with any of the athletes considered for selection. In the event of a conflict of interest arising, the CEO may nominate another member of the BD Board of Directors to review the decision.
- 11.8 The Review Panel may either:
- 11.8.1 Refer the decision back to the Selectors,
 - 11.8.2 Replace their own decision for the purposes of Selection, or
 - 11.8.3 Reject the grounds for the Objection.
- 11.9 The Review Panel will make a written decision (without an oral hearing) based on the information provided as soon as is practically possible, and in any event within 72 hours of the referral of the Objection. Their decision shall be final and binding and not subject to any further review or appeal.
- 11.10 BD shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the athlete in bringing an Objection either in relation to the Review or any Without Prejudice meeting.

**Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive
December 2025**