



British Dressage Selection Policy for FEI P/J/YR/Ch European Championships 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for FEI P/J/YR/Ch European Championships 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 Championship 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 Any 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 win team medals at the relevant FEI Under 21 European Dressage Championships 2026.
 - To win individual medals at the relevant FEI Under 21 European Championships 2026.
 - To provide an opportunity to gain international championship experience, for the future development and progression of athletes and the sport.

3. Selection Panel

- 3.1 The athletes and teams representing Great Britain for EU-CH-P/J/YR/Ch will be selected by the British Dressage U21 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:

Independent Chair – (non-voting)
Chief Selector – Richard Baldwin (voting)
Selector – Stephen Arnett (voting)
Selector – Nick Bigland (voting)

International Director (ID) – Judy Harvey (casting vote only – as per clause 3.6)

In attendance (non-voting):
Performance Manager – Nina Boex
Secretariat – U21 International Officer

3.4 Other advisors may be invited to attend the meeting with the sole purpose of providing relevant evidence of athlete and horse / pony combination performance to support the objectives of this Selection Policy but will not have the right to vote.

3.5 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.

3.6 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 International Director will have the casting vote.

3.7 The Selection Panel will be provided with relevant performance evidence and insight in advance to support them in their selection decisions. The information will be prepared by the Performance Manager and U21 International Officer, in consultation with the Chefs, Coach Advisor and Team Vet, as required.

3.8 This information will include, but is not limited to:

- A detailed summary of actual and average competition scores (taken from the BD and FEI website) from relevant competitions.
- An assessment of anticipated performance based on the data available.
- An assessment of risk factors.
- Any specific recommendations regarding the final preparation for combinations should they be selected.

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 the 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.
- A leased / loaned horse / pony must be supported by a letter from the legal owner confirming its availability for the duration of the European Championship season 2026.

- Both athlete and horse / pony have the appropriate and current FEI licence(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 meeting 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.
- 4.3 Where a rider is eligible for multiple age categories, the Selection Panel will determine which Championships they are selected for, in order to fulfil the objectives of this policy. Where selected across more than one team, first and second preferences will be indicated in the official team announcement at Nominated Entries stage and actioned at the first Definite Entries stage.

5. Selection Criteria for European Championships (EU-CH-P/J/YR/Ch) 2026

- 5.1 Championships team selection will be based on FEI team test results from competitions that run a CDIOP/J/Y/Ch and/or CDIP/J/Y/Ch and Premier Leagues/High Profile, from 1 January 2026 until the date of the relevant selection meeting, as detailed in Annex I of this policy.

- 5.1.1 Athlete and horse / pony combinations who wish **to be considered** for selection for the **EU-CH-P/J/YR** will be expected to meet the following criteria:

UK based combinations

- A minimum of two 70% overall scores or above in the relevant Team Test.
- One score must be achieved at a CDI / CDIO.
- The second score can be achieved at a CDI / CDIO, or from the specific U21 FEI Team Test class at any Premier League/High Profile competition from 1 January 2026 up to the date of final team selection.

Combinations based abroad

- A minimum of two 70% (overall scores) or above in the relevant Team Test at two CDI / CDIO competitions and subject to a competition video review by the Selectors.

The relevant FEI Team Test at CDI Wellington will be a compulsory observation test for **all** combinations who wish to be considered for European selection, except in exceptional circumstances, agreed in advance (before the Veterinary Inspection) by the Selectors and confirmed in writing by the PM.

- 5.1.2 Athlete and horse / pony combinations who wish **to be considered** for selection for the **EU-CH-Ch** will be expected to meet the following criteria:

UK based combinations

- A minimum of two 70% (final technical score) or above in the relevant Team Test.
- One score must be achieved at a CDI/CDIO.
- The second score can be achieved at a CDI / CDIO, or from the specific U21 FEI Team Test class at any of the Premier League/High Profile competitions from 1 January 2026, up to the date of final team selection.

Combinations based abroad

- A minimum of two 70% (final technical scores) or above at two CDI competitions in the relevant Team Test, subject to competition video approval, to be considered for selection.

The relevant FEI Team Test at CDI Wellington will be a compulsory observation test for **all** combinations who wish to be considered for European selection, except in exceptional circumstances, agreed in advance (before the Veterinary Inspection) by the Selectors and confirmed in writing by the PM.

- 5.1.3 For selection purposes, all tests to be ridden in accordance with FEI rules. Junior/Young Rider tests may be ridden in either a double or snaffle bridle. For Children/Ponies, all classes must be ridden in a snaffle bridle. If a score is to be considered for selection whips are not permitted. Video evidence may be required by the Selectors to support a score achieved for selection purposes.
- 5.1.4 The Selectors can exercise their discretion when considering minimum performance scores to fulfil the objectives of this policy. However, priority will always be given to those who have achieved the requirements as stated in 5.1.1 and 5.1.2.
- 5.1.5 Scores gained in a Consolation test (Team or Individual) or Freestyle to Music test will not be taken into consideration.
- 5.1.6 Athlete/horse/pony combinations must be qualified internationally i.e. having a current MPS (Minimum Performance Score) in order to be eligible for selection and ride at the European Championships.

5.2 Other Considerations in support of the Selection Policy

When making selections, the following criteria are listed and will be considered:

- 5.2.1 The athlete and horse / pony combination's results and current form, based on:
- Athlete / horse / pony combination percentages and results from Team test scores at FEI International and Premier League/High Profile competitions, from 1 January 2026 up to final selection.
 - The consistency of scores achieved at or above **70%** in these competitions (scores at **70%** (final technical score) or above for Ch combinations).
 - The trend in scores, including timing and trajectory of results.
 - The status of the judges and the competition.
 - The quality and competitiveness of starters.
 - Consideration of the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement.
 - Consideration of consistency throughout the test.
- 5.2.2 The fitness and soundness of the horse / pony to compete to its full potential, based on:
- The professional opinion of the team veterinary surgeon and/or another veterinary surgeon as nominated by BD.
 - The location and physical conditions in which the Championships will be held and the potential impact of those conditions on the horse/pony performance.
 - Official inspections that may take place at a competition or an athlete's yard in advance of selection meetings.
 - The result of any relevant blood tests requested by the Selectors.

- The openness of communication between the athlete's home veterinary surgeon and the BD Team veterinary surgeon to ensure the optimum equine management.

5.2.3 The fitness of the athlete to compete to their full potential:

- Athletes must notify BD if their health status in any way impacts upon their ability to compete to their full potential.
- Athletes may be asked to undertake a predetermined and relevant fitness assessment.

5.2.4 The athlete and horse / pony combination's ability, to support the delivery of the Objectives of this Policy:

- The athlete/horse/pony combination's likelihood to optimise the probability of achieving the Objectives of this Policy.
- Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment towards generating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- Willingness of the athlete and his/her personal team to contribute to the objectives of the Selection Policy and abide by any British Equestrian team charter / BD Code of Conduct which may be in force at the Championships or elsewhere.

5.3 All selection decisions are subject to the athlete and horse / pony combination maintaining their fitness and performance in a suitable training and competition programme, as agreed with the PM, up to the Championship date. Failure to do so or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM could lead to the athlete and horse / pony combination being de-selected or substituted.

6. Qualification Period and Designated Events

6.1 The qualification period for an athlete / horse / pony combination will be in accordance with qualification guidelines, which are available at www.fei.org.

6.2 The Selectors may, at any time during the selection period (as per Annex I) request athlete and horse / pony combinations to compete in one or more specific competitions. If the athlete subsequently does not attend, without a veterinary/medical certificate, this will be the athlete's responsibility and may negatively impact on selection decisions.

6.3 The Selectors may ask athlete and horse / pony combinations to participate in specific training or observation days. Participation will be compulsory, except in exceptional circumstances, agreed in advance with the ID / PM.

7. Selection Process

7.1 For the European Championships 2026, a team of up to four athlete and horse / pony combinations per level (for P/J/YR/Ch) will be selected to compete in the team competition. The Selectors may also select up to two reserve combinations per level which they will place in rank order and / or identify reserves for named selected combinations.

7.2 At the final Selection Meeting (see Annex I) Selectors will select the final team of four combinations plus up to two reserves (per level) for the EU-CH-P/J/YR 2026.

7.3 The announcement of the final selections with reserves, respectively, will be posted on the BD website, subject to the objection process.

- 7.4 Athletes and their connections who are notified of their team or reserve place must keep this confidential until it is publicly announced by BD.
- 7.5 Mounted attendance at the relevant pre-Championship team camp is compulsory for the selected team and reserves. Selected team combinations and reserves who reside overseas will be required to attend on foot as a minimum, by agreement with the Selectors through the Performance Manager. Failure to do so or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM could lead to the athlete and horse / pony combination being de-selected or substituted.
- 7.6 Mounted attendance at the trot up at pre-departure venue is compulsory for all team combinations and reserves. Failure to do so or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM could lead to the athlete and horse / pony combination being de-selected or substituted.

8.0 Withdrawals

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

9.0 Substitution

- 9.1 Following the receipt of Definite Entries, the substitution of athlete and horse / pony combinations may only be made with the agreement of the Championship Organising Committee (OC). The OC must print the latest date for substitution in the schedule as per Article 423.4 & 491.2 of the FEI Dressage Rules for the Championships.
- 9.2 The final decision as to whether to substitute will be made by the ID, in consultation with the Selectors, with input from the team veterinary surgeon and / or appointed doctor (if deemed appropriate), depending on the specific circumstances.
- 9.3 The decision by BEF / BD to substitute a combination will only be made if, in the professional opinion of the team vet and/or appointed doctor (if deemed appropriate), the athlete and horse / pony combination is 'unable to compete in a manner which allows them to produce the standard of performance for which they are selected'.

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, members of the Selection Panel, both voting and non-voting, 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 Members of the Selection Panel 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 BDCEO and Independent Chair prior to the meeting so that they can be managed in an appropriate manner. All conflicts of interest will be recorded in the minutes by the secretariat at the beginning of each meeting. 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

Athletes, parents / guardians, owners, trainers, grooms, and athletes' support teams are expected to abide by any BD and/or British Equestrian and/or Athlete / Parent Code of Conduct which may be in force. The 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.

- 10.3.1 Athletes, parents / guardians, owners, trainers, grooms, and athletes' support teams are expected to behave in a manner that does not negatively affect performance or bring the sport into disrepute.
- 10.3.2 Any breach of the BD and/or British Equestrian and/or Athlete/Parent Code of Conduct /Team Charter by any rider, 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

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 at www.british equestrian.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, the original team selection will stand, subject to fitness and availability. A situation might arise where new combinations may and / or different teams need to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and (subject to the provisions in Section 1.3) the 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 the teams or individuals from competition.

10.6 Point of Contact

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

10.7 Finance

- 10.7.1 British Dressage will fund a team at P/J/YR level if a team has been selected, providing all riders meet the relevant criteria. Otherwise, any individual funding will be at the discretion of the BD Board of Directors. Selectors may send individuals if they have achieved qualifying scores of 70% or above; however, they will be self-funded.
- 10.7.2 British Dressage will fund a team at CH level if a team has been selected, providing all riders meet the relevant criteria. Otherwise, any individual funding will be at the discretion of the BD Board of Directors. Selectors may send individuals if they have achieved qualifying scores of 70% (final technical score) or above; however, they will be self-funded.
- 10.7.3 The BD Board of Directors reserve the right not to select a team or individuals for the EU-CH- P/J/YR/Ch if, in their opinion and based on relevant evidence, those being considered for selection have not met the British Dressage required criteria and are therefore unlikely to fulfil the objectives of the policy to be in contention for team or individual medals.

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 British-based athletes attend any 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**

ANNEX I – ALL LEVELS P/J/YR/Ch

Key Dates 2026

1 January	Qualification window opens
16/17 February	U21 Training Camp, Unicorn (by invitation of Selectors)
12-15 March	CDI Addington, GBR
14-17 May	CDI Hickstead, GBR
4-7 June	CDI Wellington (Selector's Observation classes)
w/c 8 June	European Teams Selection Meeting (all levels)
w/c 8 June	Riders informed by International Director/Chief Selector
w/c 15 June	European Teams announced
20/21 June	YR Pre-European Team Camp, BSJ National Training Centre
27/28 June	CH/J/P Pre-European Team Camp, Kilbees
6-12 July	YR European Championships, Pilisjaszfal, Budapest, HUN
13-19 July	J/CH European Championships, Olomouc, CZE
23 July	Pony 1-day Pre-European Team Camp, Kilbees
29 July - 2 August	Pony European Championships, Le Mans, FRA

International Shows / Premier Leagues / Selectors' Observation Classes

Championship Team selection will be based on FEI Team Test results from all international shows that run a CDIO and/or CDI, as well as domestic Premier League shows and High Profile Shows.

The FEI Team Test classes at CDI Wellington (4-7 Jun) have been designated as Selectors' Observation classes and are compulsory for all combinations seeking European Selection, as per paras 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 of the BD Selection Policy for P/J/YR/Ch European Championships 2026.

Competition Rules

All combinations will need to comply with the relevant FEI qualifications regarding age and experience for the 2026 competition year. No whips can be used in any qualifying score tests.