

## **British Dressage Selection Policy for U25 CDI and CDIO 2026**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for U25 CDI and CDIO competitions 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 preparation to those identified as contenders for the FEI U25 European Championships 2026 by facilitating entries into appropriate international competitions.
  - To provide international competition experience to those considered to be on a developing trajectory as medal winning contenders at future U25 Championships by facilitating entries into appropriate international competitions.
  - To enable athlete/horse combinations opportunities to broaden international competition experience with the aim of supporting performance progression at U25 and Grand Prix level by facilitating entries into appropriate international competitions.

### **3. Eligibility requirements**

- 3.1 To be eligible athletes must meet the following:
  - a. Be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland holding a current valid UK passport, in compliance with government guidelines and with the FEI General Regulations 24<sup>th</sup> edition, Article 119 at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of 2026.
  - b. Be aged between 16 and 25 years from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 25 (FEI Dressage Rules Art. 401.8, FEI General Regulations Appendix A)
  - c. The horse must be born a minimum of 8 years as of 1 January 2026 (FEI Dressage Rules Art. 401.8, Art. 433)

- d. Comply with the FEI, BEF (BEFAR) Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on anti-doping. Athletes must be eligible to compete under any and all anti-doping codes 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 conduct and is not in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport.
- e. Is a Full (Competing) member of British Dressage (BD) and is not serving any suspension under BD, BEF or any other Member Body rules.
- f. Holds a license granted by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 113.
- g. The horse is fully registered with BD for 2026.
- h. 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.
- i. Neither athletes nor horses may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in or be considered for any competition under British Equestrian Federation (BEF), FEI or BD Rules.

**4. Selection Process for athlete/horse combinations to be considered who have not yet competed at an FEI U25 CDI competition:**

- 4.1. 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 combination's first FEI International competition and the competition definite entry deadline they wish to be considered for.
- 4.2. To be considered for selection horses may be ridden in a double or snaffle bridle. If selected please refer to FEI Dressage Rules 26<sup>th</sup> Edition, Art. 401.8.
- 4.3. After completing the requirements outlined in Section 3 and 4 athletes should apply to the IO requesting to be added to the International Competition List. They should notify the IO of any competitions they wish to be considered for, based on the following criteria (Home denotes country of residence):

**MINIMUM PERFORMANCE SCORES (MPS)**

| To be considered to compete at: | Final score of: | Tour   | Competition Level (see a. /b. /c. below)                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--|
| Foreign or Home CDI             | 67%             | Middle | Intermediate 11/ Intermediate A or B                         |
| Foreign or Home CDI             | 67%             | U25    | Intermediate 11 / Intermediate 11 (U25) / Grand Prix 16 - 25 |
| Foreign or Home CDI             | 67%             | Big    | Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special                               |

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 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 to the IO at least three weeks before the entry deadline of the competition they wish to be considered for.

**5. Selection Process for athlete/horse combinations to be considered who have already competed in an FEI U25 CDI / CDIO competition:**

- 5.1 Athlete/horse combinations should have been selected for and competed in a FEI U25 CDI / CDIO competition within the 14 months preceding the competition definite entry deadline they wish to be considered for.
- 5.2 Scores from both international competitions and those competitions outlined in Section 4 will be considered, international competitions may take priority.
- 5.3 After completing the requirements outlined in Section 3 and 5 athletes should continue to notify the IO of any competitions they wish to be considered for.

**6. Selection process for athlete/horse combinations who wish to be considered for a U25 CDIO competition:**

- 6.1 Athlete/horse combinations may follow the process outlined in Section 4 or 5.
- 6.2 A squad of a maximum of four (4) or minimum of three (3) combinations will make up the Team.
- 6.3 The Selectors may also select reserve combinations, placing them in rank order.
- 6.4 If selected, please note FEI Dressage Rules Art. 401.8 in regard to the use of double and snaffle bridles.
- 6.5 The Selectors retain the right not to send a team to a CDIO competition.

**7. Selection Guidelines**

- 7.1 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 U25 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.

7.2 The Selectors will have the right to select athlete/horse combinations for FEI U25 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).

## 8. Selection Conditions

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

- The BEF Equine Ethics and Welfare Policy  
[https://bit.ly/BEF\\_Equine\\_Ethics\\_Welfare\\_Rules](https://bit.ly/BEF_Equine_Ethics_Welfare_Rules)
- The BEF Team Charter  
<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/assets/About%20the%20BEF/Team%20charter.pdf>
- BD Code of Conduct  
<https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/membership/members-handbook/>.
- 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.

## 9. Selection Decisions and Timelines

- Meetings and Communication: The Selectors will meet or communicate, in person or remotely, as often as needed to select athlete/horse combinations for U25 CDI competitions.
- Selection numbers: Selectors will choose the athlete/horse combinations that form the confirmed entries and reserves.
- Evaluation and Ranking: Selectors will assess all athlete/horse combinations applying for each U25 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 an U25 CDI.
- Notification of Selection: After each Selection meeting, the IO will confirm selection information to athletes via email, and it will be assumed there is a continued commitment to competition attendance on the part of the athlete.
- Withdrawal by an Athlete: Athletes wishing to withdraw pre-competition must immediately inform the IO.

## 10. Selection Panel

10.1. The Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Chief Selector and BD International Director (ID) (voting) | Judy Harvey |
| Selector (voting)  | Jenny Ward  |
| Selector (voting)  | Anne Keen   |

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

- World Class Programme (WCP) Team Manager/Chef d'Equipe (TM/CdE)
- WCP Dressage Manager (DM)
- BD U25 Chef d'Equipe
- BD CEO
- WCP Performance 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.*

10.2.1. 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.

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

10.3. 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.

10.4. 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.

10.5. 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.

## **11. Confidentiality**

11.1 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.

- 11.2. 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.

## **12. Policy formation**

- 12.1. 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 WCP DM.

## **13. Changes in Policy**

- 13.1 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.

## **14. General**

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. 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.
- 14.3. Communication – this Selection Policy will be published on the BD website: [www.britishdressage.co.uk](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk)
- 14.4. Enquiries – should be sent via email to the International Officer (IO) Lianne Martin: [lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk](mailto:lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk)

## **15. Appeals Process and Procedures**

- 15.1. 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.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. 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.

- 15.4. 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.
- 15.5. The Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website:  
<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook>

**Jason Brautigam**  
**Chief Executive**  
**December 2025**