

British Dressage Selection Policy for

U25 European Championships 2026

KEY DATES

Register of Intent submission deadline	05/05/2026
MER achievement period (Link)	01/01/2025 to Nominated entries date TBA
Nominated entries selection meeting	On or around 02/06/26
Definite entries selection meeting	On or around 10/06/26
U25 Pre European Camp	20/ 21 June 2026

All dates in the Policy are subject to amendment following publication of the FEI schedule for the Championships.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Dressage (BD) squad (the 'Squad') for the 2026 U25 European Championships (the 'Championships') will be selected by the British Dressage Selection Panel (the 'Selectors'), which is endorsed by British Equestrian (BEF).
- 1.2. References to selection for the Championships in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of 4, athlete/horse combinations that will be selected. Additional 'reserve' combinations will also be referred to.

2. Objectives

The purpose of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential to achieve some or all the objectives:

- To win a Team and/or Individual medal/s at the FEI U25 Dressage European Championships.
- To offer opportunity of providing Championship experience to potential future U25 Championships or Senior Team athlete/horse combinations.

3. Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for selection, athletes must meet the following criteria:

- a. Achieve, as a combination, the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) set out in FEI Dressage European Championship for Young Riders & U25 Qualification Criteria. This document and the list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website: www.fei.org
- b. Be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland holding a current valid UK passport that is in compliance with government guidelines and in compliance with the [Fédération Equestre Internationale \(FEI\) General Regulations, 24th Edition, Article 119](#) at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of 2026.
- c. 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 Article 401.8, FEI General regulations Appendix A)
- d. The horse must be born on or before 31 December 2018 (eight years of age) FEI Dressage rules 26th Edition Article 401.7
- e. Comply with FEI and BEF (BEFAR) Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on human anti-doping. Athletes must be eligible to compete under any and all anti-doping codes, i.e. 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.
- f. The athlete is a full (competing) member of British Dressage and is not serving any suspension under BD, BEF, or any other Member Body rules.
- g. Athletes will be obliged to adhere to and to abide by the [British Equestrian Team Charter](#) and the British Dressage members [Code of Conduct](#).
- h. Holds a license granted by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with [FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Articles 113 and 117](#).
- i. The horse is fully registered with British Dressage and the FEI for 2026 by the date of submission of the nominated entries.
- j. The owner of the horses 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.
- k. Neither athletes nor horse may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Championships under BD, FEI, or any BEF Member Body rules.
- l. All Squad members will be expected to comply with preparation requirements. Failure to do so could result in the athlete/horse combination being removed from the Squad list.

- m. Athletes are obliged to notify the Team Vet of any change in their horses' health status or veterinary management immediately. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the Team Vet to ensure that the selectors can make rational decisions and so that specific support can be instigated where required.
- n. An athlete must declare to the U25 Chef d'équipe (or representative) any current or ongoing physical or mental reason that may impair their ability to perform at their peak on any given day at the Championships. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
- o. A BD appointed Medical Health practitioner may also pass judgement on an athlete's capacity to compete optimally from a medical perspective. However, it is noted this is done confidentially and without any detail of the issues without the athlete's explicit consent.

4 Register of Intent

- 4.1 To be considered for selection for the Championships, an athlete/horse combination must have registered their intent to compete (ROI) by 23:59 on 5th May. ([ROI Link](#)) By signing the ROI, the athlete confirms that they have read and agree to abide by the terms set out in this selection policy.
- 4.2 Athletes must ensure that their horse's owners are informed of the ROI submission.
- 4.3 The ID reserves the right to add any athlete/horse combination to the ROI list at any time prior to the FEI Nominated Entries submission deadline.


5 Squad/team size

- 5.1 A Squad of Four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be selected, competing in both the Team and Individual Competitions.
- 5.2 The Selectors may also select a number of reserve combinations who must come from the Nominated Entry list. The Selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order.
 - 5.2.1 For clarity, reserve combinations will be expected to comply with preparation requirements. Failure to do so could result in the athlete/horse combination being removed from the reserve list.

6 Selection criteria

- 6.1 The Selectors will select combinations to form the Squad. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity. The criteria below are not listed in order of priority, may be given unequal weight and/or may be disregarded to best meet the objectives of the Policy.
 - 6.1.1 The athlete/horse combination's results:
 - a. During the MER achievement period

When considering results, due regard will be given to the following (in no particular order):

- i. Results in an FEI Intermediate II (Competition team medal decided)
 - ii. Results in an FEI U25 Grand Prix (U25GP competition in which Individual medal can be won)
 - iii. Results in an FEI U25GPFS (Competition in which Individual medal can be won, notwithstanding that athlete/horse combinations must also have scores from the U25 GP that support qualification to the U25 GPF's)
 - iv. The performance trajectory and development of the combination
 - v. The experience and standing of the judges in relation to the FEI 2026 U25 European Championships
 - vi. The quality and competitiveness of the starters
 - vii. The combinations likelihood to develop into a contributor to maximise the probability of the winning of medals/achieving the Objectives set out in Section 2.
 - viii. The commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Championships according to their and their horse's specific requirements as agreed by the ID, CdE, and Team Vet.
 - ix. The reasons and justification behind any incomplete completions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement during the period up to and including the Championships definite entry date.
 - x. The ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Championships.
- 6.2 The fitness and soundness of the horse. All horses under consideration may be required to be examined by the Team Vet (or another appointed veterinarian if necessary). The selection process may include the taking of bloods for pre-Championship equine anti-doping and controlled medication testing, including Pre-Arrival Testing.
- 6.3 An athlete must declare to the ID / CdE any current or ongoing physical or mental reason that may impair their ability to perform at their peak on any given day at the FEIU25 Dressage European Championships 2026. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
- 6.4 The ability of the athlete and the people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, partners, coaches, connections and grooms) to have an impact on creating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- 6.5 Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- 6.6 The owner(s) commitment to making their horse(s) available as non-travelling reserve.
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- 6.7 The Selectors, in collaboration with the Chef d'Equipe may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, tests or competitions where they deem this appropriate and necessary prior to selection. The Chef d'Equipe will inform the athletes of the details regarding these requirements and participation will be compulsory.

7 Selection process

Nominated Entries selection

- 7.1 The Selectors will hold the Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around **2 June 2026**.
- 7.2 The nominated entry list will comprise of up to double the maximum number of definite entries. The selectors may also select several reserve athlete/horse combinations for the nominated entry list, which may or may not be set out in rank order.
- 7.3 The British Dressage International Director (ID) will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until they are formally notified by the Chef d'Equipe (CdE).
- 7.4 The Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI on the date of the Nominated Entries deadline of **[date]**.

Definite Entries selection

- 7.5 The selectors will hold the Definite Entries selection meeting on or around **10 June 2026**.
- 7.6 The Selectors will select the Squad of Four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Championships. The selectors may also select several reserve athlete/horse combinations for the squad from the Nominated Entries list, which may or may not be in order of preference.
- 7.7 The British Dressage International Director (ID) will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until they are formally notified by the Chef d'Equipe (CdE).
- 7.8 The athlete/horse combinations that will compete for the Team and Individual medals will be announced in line with the FEI Regulations for the Championships.
- 7.9 The Definite Entries will be submitted to the FEI on the date of the Definite Entries deadline of **[date]**.

8 Selection Panel and attendees

- 8.1 The Selection Panel shall be comprised of:
- Independent Chair of Selectors (IC) (non-voting) Sarah Rowell
 - Chief Selector / International Director (ID) (voting) Judy Harvey
 - Selector (voting) Anne Keen
 - Selector (voting) Jenny Ward

The intent is that these individuals will normally attend the selection meetings in person, but these meetings may be held remotely with prior agreement of the IC.

8.2 In the exceptional event that a selector is unable to attend on the agreed meeting date, at the discretion of the BD CEO the meeting may either be rescheduled or will continue with the remaining selectors in attendance. If the meeting continues with the remaining selectors, the missing selector's vote will transfer to the BD CEO.

8.3 Non-voting panel members present at the selection meetings, as required:

- British Dressage Team Veterinarian (Vet)
- British Dressage appointed Medical representative
- British Dressage U25 Chef d'Equipe
- BD CEO
- BD appointed minute taker

These expert opinions may be sought by the Selectors, but they will not have a vote at the point of selection. They may contribute fully to the selection discussions when invited to do so.

8.4 The Independent Chair of Selectors (IC) will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The IC will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Panel members will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector must step down from discussion involving the conflict.

8.5 With the exception of the IC, all Selectors will have equal voting rights. Decisions must be reached by a majority and with no abstentions, unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest. In the event that the remaining Selectors reach an equality of votes, the BD CEO will have the casting vote.

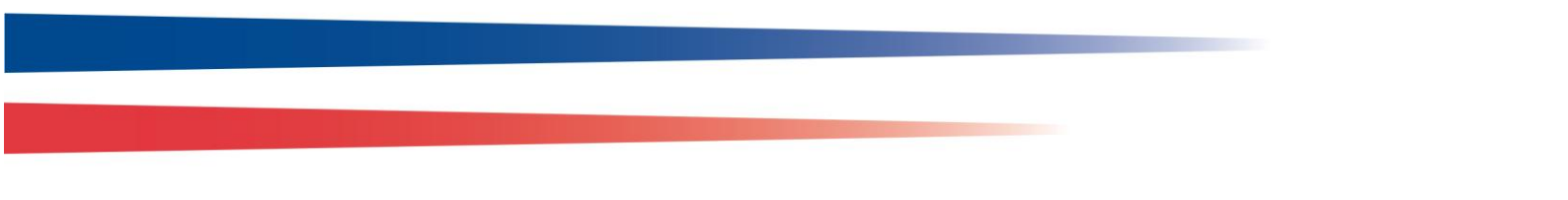
8.6 The Team Vet will attend the selection meeting, if required, with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.

8.7 An BD appointed Medical Health practitioner may attend the selection meeting, if required, with the sole purpose of reporting on athletes' fitness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.

8.8 Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this Policy, having regard to the criteria set out in clause 6, to use their discretion to select athlete/horse combinations onto the Squad.

9. Withdrawal

Athletes have the right to withdraw themselves or their horse, from the selection process at any time after completing their ROI. To withdraw, athletes should confirm in writing via email to the BD International Officer (IO) that they no longer wish to be considered for selection.




10. Team Composition and Running Order

- 10.1 The ID, in consultation with the CdE, will decide the proposed running order in line with the requirements of the competition. If not already informed before travel, the ID will inform the Squad accordingly after assessment of the condition of the horses post-travel, the ground/weather/field of play conditions, and the health of the athlete to compete to their maximum potential. The Team composition and running order decision will not be contestable; it will be final.
- 10.2 The ID may subsequently make amendments to the order at any time up to two [2] hours before the start of the competition, if it is deemed necessary to do so. This decision will not be contestable; it will be final.

9 De-selection

- 11.1 De-selection of a Squad member may occur at any time in line with the terms set out in this Policy. De-selection will normally only occur in exceptional circumstances such as injury or illness to an athlete or horse, or a performance issue that indicates a combination is unlikely to contribute to the objectives of the policy.
- 11.2 Between the conclusion of the Nominated Entries selection meeting and prior to departure to the Championships, de-selection and replacement decisions, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the ID in consultation with the CdE, Team Vet and/or BD CEO, as appropriate.
- 11.3 Between the conclusion of the Nominated Entries selection meeting and prior to departure to the Championships, de-selection and replacement decisions, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the ID in consultation with the CdE, Team Vet and/or BD CEO, as appropriate.
- 11.4 Once departure to the Championships has commenced, if there is a need to de-select an athlete/horse combination from the squad or the Team for any reason, the decision will be made by the ID, in consultation with the CdE, Team Vet as appropriate. This decision will not be contestable; it will be final.

12 Post Selection


- 12.1 Selected and reserve athletes must continue to meet all of the eligibility requirements detailed in this policy and adhere to all reasonable training, preparation, media, and team meeting requirements. Failure to do so may result in the athlete/horse combination being de-selected.
 - 12.2 In the event that an athlete ceases to meet the eligibility requirements, or any breaches or alleged breaches of these agreements, rules and policies are under investigation by British Dressage, BEF or any other statutory authority, the CEO of British Dressage and BEF, along with the chef d'Equipe will collectively determine and agree whether de-selection is the appropriate course of action, regardless of whether the relevant process has been concluded or any other risk management or disciplinary sanctions have been imposed at that point.
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- 12.3 The Athlete will be notified of any review of their selection under clause 12.2 and will be given the opportunity to make written representations within 72 hours of notification. The de-selection decision, together with any athlete submission, will be subject to final review by the Chair. The outcome of this process shall be final and not open to appeal.
- 12.4 Any de-selection decision made within 72 hours prior to departure to the Championships will be deemed final and not open to appeal.
- 12.5 Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected, any de-selection decisions will normally be made based upon the following (note that the list is not exhaustive):
- 12.5.1 Failure to maintain form and fitness of horse (as determined by a BD veterinarian in consultation with ID). For clarification, being unfit to compete is best described as 'not being able to compete to the performance standards anticipated.
 - 12.5.2 Failure to maintain form and fitness of athlete (as determined by a BD appointed Medical representative). For clarification, being unfit to compete is best described as 'not being able to ride the horse in a manner which allows the athlete to produce the standard of performance at which they were selected'.
 - 12.5.3 Failure to meet eligibility requirements.
 - 12.5.4 Any behaviour which brings the reputation of British Dressage/ British Equestrian Federation into disrepute as deemed by the chef d'Equipe.

13 Appeals process and procedures

- 13.1 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 this Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach, excluding those decisions which are non-appealable.
- 13.2 Any appeal must be submitted within two working days of the athlete being informed of the Selectors' decision.
- 13.3 The [Appeal Process is set out on the BEF website.](#)

14. General

- 14.1 The British Dressage ID, in consultation with the British Dressage CEO reserves the right to amend this Policy at any time at their discretion and will make any amended version publicly available on the British Dressage website and make all reasonable efforts to inform athletes.
- 14.2 Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation of the Championships, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation may arise where a new and/or different Squad needs to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified, and the selection process will be followed.
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- 14.3 Force Majeure: In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BEF or British Dressage control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or the withdrawal of WCP funding, the BEF and British Dressage Board reserve the right to make the decision, following consultation with the ID and CEOs of BD and the BEF, either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from competition.
- 14.4 Communication: The Selection Policy will be published on the British Dressage website at www.britishdressage.co.uk.
- 14.5 Point of Contact: The IO is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy. Enquiries should be sent via email to: Liannemartin@britishdressage.co.uk.

15 Policy formation

- 15.1 The British Dressage U25 European Championship Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BD Board, BD CEO, BD ID and Selectors.

Jason Brautigam
British Dressage
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