

British Dressage Under 25 Selection Policy 2025 European Championships – updated 20.03.25

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Dressage squad (the “Squad”) for the 2025 U25 FEI European Championships (the “Championships”) will be selected by the British Dressage (“BD”) Selection Panel (the “Selectors”).
- 1.2. References to selection for the Championships in this Policy refer to selection of a Squad of up to four (4) athlete/horse combinations that may 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 its objectives.

- 2.1. **Primary objective:** To win a Team and/or Individual medal at the FEI U25 Dressage European Championships.
- 2.2. **Secondary objective:** To offer the opportunity of providing Championship experience to potential future U25 Championships or Senior Team athlete/horse combinations.

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, at all times, a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.
- 3.2. Any member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection Panel. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

4. Selection Panel and attendees

- 4.1. The Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting)
Chief Selector (voting)
Selector (voting)
Selector (voting)

Sarah Rowell
Judy Harvey
Jenny Ward
Anne Keen

- 4.2. Non-Voting Experts may be invited to attend the selection meeting by the International Director (“ID”) either in person or remotely.

Dressage Performance Manager (PM)
Performance Director (or their chosen representative as approved by BEF / BD CEOs)
BD appointed Vet (Team Vet)
BD appointed Medical Health practitioner

Also present: BD appointed Minute Taker.

The individual experts' opinion may be sought by the Selectors and they may contribute to selection discussions, but they will not have a vote at the point of selection.

- 4.3 The Independent Chair of Selectors will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The Independent Chair will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as they arise and using the conflict-of-interest declaration form. If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector must step down from discussion 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 Chief Selector will have the casting and deciding vote. In the event of the Chief Selector being required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest, the CEO Of British Dressage, or their chosen representative, will have the casting and deciding vote.
- 4.5 The Team Vet, if required, will provide such information as necessary with the sole purpose of reporting on soundness, assessment of known risk factors and recommendations regarding final preparation.
- 4.6 The BD appointed Medical Health practitioner, if required, will provide such information as necessary to enable Selectors to make a rational decision on an athlete's fitness and/or anticipated ability to complete the competition and manage the environment.
- 4.7 The PM, if required, will provide relevant evidence and insight including, but not limited to, assessment of past and future anticipated performance and assessment of risk factors.
- 4.8 Throughout the Selection process, the Selectors will act as experts and are entitled within this Selection Policy, having regard for the criteria set out below, to use their discretion to select athlete/horse combinations onto the Squad. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with integrity having regard to, and acting in compliance with, any applicable code of conduct or code of ethics in force from time to time.

5. Policy formation

- 5.1 The British Dressage U25 European Championship Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BD Board Directors, BD Selectors, BD Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and PM.

6. Changes in Policy

- 6.1 The Selectors or ID 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 Independent Chair of Selectors, ID, PM and CEOs of BEF and BD. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Chief Selector or Performance Director ("PD")) and will be published on the BEF and BD websites.

7. Minimum eligibility Requirements and MER availability for consideration for selection

- 7.1. All athletes are responsible for ensuring their British passport have a minimum of six (6) months to run after the date of the Championships.

- 7.2. The BD International Officer will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including:
- a. The athlete must be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in compliance with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) General Regulations, 26th Edition, Article 119 at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of the Championships.
 - b. The athlete has been granted a licence by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 26th Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
 - c. To be able to participate in the Championships all athletes/horses must achieve, as a combination, the MER set out in the U25 Section of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) Dressage Qualification Criteria 2025. ([FEI MER](#)) The list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website. ([FEI Calendar 2025](#)).
 - d. All athletes will be expected to comply with FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, BEF and WADA rules on human anti-doping, and all athletes must be eligible to compete under any anti-doping code; 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.
 - e. The athlete is a full member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD, BEF, or any other Member body rules.
 - f. The horse is fully registered with BD and the FEI for 2025.
 - g. Neither athlete nor horse may, for any reason, be ineligible to take part in the Championships under FEI, BEF, or any BEF Member Body rules.
- 7.3 In addition, to be considered for selection for the Championships, an athlete/horse combination must have registered their intent to compete (ROI).
- a. All athlete/horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete at the Championships before 23:59 hours on the 07 May 2025 to be considered for selection. The ROI form can be found [\[Link\]](#). By signing the ROI form, the athlete confirms that they have read and agree to abide by the terms set out in this Selection Policy.
 - i. The ID reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances, to add any athlete/horse combination to the ROI list at any time prior to the start to the nomination Selection meeting.
- 7.4 In addition, as a condition of selection for the Championships, an athlete/horse combination must meet the following:
- a. Athletes will be obliged to adhere and to abide by the BEF Team Charter ([BEF Team Charter](#)) and the BD Code of Conduct. ([BD Code of Conduct](#)).
 - b. All athletes will be expected to comply with reasonable requests intended to support optimal performance preparation for themselves and their horses, in particular, but not limited to, those specifically aligned to the anticipated environmental conditions, competition format, and arrival times and dates.

8. Qualification period

8.1 The qualification period for Teams and Individuals will be in accordance with the FEI qualification guidelines ([FEI U25 MER](#)).

9 Squad size

9.1 A squad of up to four (4) athlete/horse combinations may be selected, where three (3) or four (4) athlete/horse combinations are selected they will make up the Team. Team and/or Individuals will be expected to compete in the FEI Intermediate II (Team Final) together with, if qualified, the FEI U25 Grand Prix (Individual competition) and the U25 Grand Prix Freestyle (Individual Final).

9.2 The Selectors may also select a number of reserve combinations (the exact number may be decided in consultation with the PM/Team Vet) who must come from the Nominated Entry list. The Selectors retain the option to place the reserve list in rank order. Reserve horse/s may be required to travel with the Squad horses in case there is a requirement for a substitution.

10 Selection criteria

10.1 The Selectors will consider the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion to select combinations onto the Squad in to achieve the Objectives of the Policy. They must at all times use their discretion honestly and with due integrity. All the criteria listed below will be assessed in no particular order and with no particular weighting.

10.1.1 The athlete/horse combination's results during the qualification period, **which must include a minimum of one (1) CDI U25 Intermediate 11 competition**. When considering results, due regard will be given to:

- **Primary consideration:** scores obtained from all FEI CDIU25, CDI/CDIO at U25 and Middle Tour competitions from 1 January 2025 (obtained from the FEI Website), up to and including the Championships nominated entry date, with the emphasis on Intermediate II.
- **Secondary consideration:** scores obtained from all FEI CDIU25, CDI/CDIO at Big Tour competitions from 1 January 2025 (obtained from the FEI Website), up to and including the Championships nominated entry date, with the emphasis on U25 Grand Prix (16 – 25) and/or the Grand Prix.
- **Tertiary consideration:** scores obtained from all FEI CDIU25, CDI/CDIO at U25, Middle and Big Tour competitions from 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 (obtained from the FEI Website), up to and including the Championships nominated entry date, with the emphasis on Intermediate II, then the U25 Grand Prix (16 – 25) and/or the Grand Prix.

10.1.2 Scores obtained will be considered in alignment with the competition format for the FEI U25 European Championships:

- a. Scores achieved in FEI Intermediate II (the competition in which the Team medal will be decided).
- b. Scores achieved in FEI U25 Grand Prix (U25GP) (the competition in which an Individual medal can be won).

- c. Scores achieved in FEI U25 Grand Prix Freestyle (GPFs) (the competition in which an Individual medal can be won), notwithstanding that athlete/horse combinations must also have scores from the U25 GP that support qualification to the U25 GPFs.
- d. The performance trajectory of the combination.
- e. The experience and standing of the judges in relation to the FEI 2025 U25 European Championships.
- f. The quality and competitiveness of the starters.
- g. The combination's likelihood to develop into a contributor to maximise the probability of the winning of medals/achieving the objectives set out in Section 2.
- h. The commitment of the athlete to preparing optimally for the Championships according to their and their horse's specific requirements as agreed by the PM, (Chef d'Equipe) and Team Vet.
- i. The reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement during the period up to and including the Championships definite entry date.

10.1.3 Fitness and soundness of the horse to compete to their full potential throughout the Championships.

- a. All horses under consideration may be required to be examined by the Team Vet. This will normally take place during a competition but may, if necessary, take place at a yard visit.
- b. Once a horse has been included in the Nominated Entries and the Definite Entries, athletes must ensure that the Team Vet is informed immediately of any changes/treatments taking place in the horse's veterinary plan. Once an Athlete has submitted a Register of Intent form they are expected to facilitate open communication concerning their horse's management between their own veterinary surgeon and the Team Vet to support the selectors in selecting the Squad in line with the Objectives of this policy.
- c. The selection process may include the taking of bloods for pre-Championships testing.

10.1.4 Fitness of the human athlete to compete to their full potential.

- a. An athlete must declare to the PM/Chef d'Equipe any current or ongoing physical or mental reason that may impair their ability to perform at their peak on any given day at the FEI U25 Dressage European Championships 2025. This information will be held in the strictest confidence.
- b. 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 issue without the athlete's explicit consent.

- 10.1.5 Conduct of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, partners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- 10.1.6 Willingness of the athlete and their home team, owners, coaches, sports science and medical staff, grooms and others that may be assisting the athlete during the FEI U25 Dressage European Championships 2025 to abide by the British Equestrian Team Charter.
- 10.1.7 The athlete and/or owner's commitment to make their horse/s available as a reserve both travelling and non-travelling for the FEI U25 Dressage European Championships 2025.
- 10.1.8 The Selectors, in collaboration with the PM/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 PM/Chef d'Equipe will inform the athletes concerned of the details regarding these requirements. Participation will be compulsory except under exceptional circumstances agreed with the PM/Chef d'Equipe.

11 Selection process

- 11.1 The Selectors will hold the Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around **2 June 2025**]. The Nominated Entry list will comprise of up to eight (8) athlete/horse combinations. 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 of preference.
- 11.2 The Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability will be submitted to the FEI by the **[insert date]**.
- 11.3 The selectors will hold the Definite Entries selection meeting on or around the **10 June 2025**. The Selectors will select the Squad of up four (4) athlete/horse combinations to travel to the Championships, where they select three (3) or four (4) athlete horse combinations they will make up the Team. The selectors may also select several reserve athlete/horse combinations for the squad, which may or may not be set out in order of preference.
- 11.4 The Chief Selector will inform the athletes of the decisions of the Selectors. Athletes will be required to maintain complete confidentiality until the Team announcement has been made.
- 11.5 British Dressage will announce the Squad for the "Championships".
- 11.6 Key Dates:
- ROI Deadline **07/05/2025**
 - Nominated Entries selection meeting on or around the **02/06/2025**
 - Definite Entries selection meeting on or around the **10/06/2025**
 - MER Deadline **[Insert date]**
 - Nominated Entries and Certificates of Capability Deadline **[Insert date]**
 - Definite Entries Deadline **[Insert date]**

12 Post Selection Team and Team Running Order

- 12.1 Where a Team is selected the PM/Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Chief Selector and Team Vet, will decide the proposed running order for the Team competition. If not already informed before travel, the PM/Chef d'Equipe will inform the Team of the running order accordingly after assessment of the condition of the horses post travel and the health of the athlete to compete to their maximum potential and, in consultation with the Team Vet, may make changes to the proposed running order in line with the FEI timeframes outlined in the competition schedule.

- 12.2 The decision regarding the Team and Team running order will be made with absolute discretion, honesty, and integrity to the Objectives of this Selection Policy. The decision will not be contestable, it will be final.
- 12.3 Once departure to the Championships has commenced de-selection and replacement decisions to the Squad will be made by the PM/Chef d'Equipe and Team Vet.

13 Withdrawal

- 13.1 Athletes have the right to withdraw, themselves or a horse, from the selection process at any time after completing an ROI. To withdraw, athletes should confirm in writing to the PM, by any method or form, that they no longer wish to be considered for selection.

14 De-selection and Substitution

- 14.1 Between the conclusion of the Nominations Selection meeting and the submission of the Nominated Entries, the final decision as to whether to de-select, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM/Chef d'Equipe and Team Vet.
- 14.2 Between the submission of the Nominated Entries and the submission of the Definite Entries, the final decision as to whether to de-select, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM/Chef d'Equipe and Team Vet.
- 14.2.1 After the submission of the Definite Entries, and prior to departure to the Championships, de-selection and replacement decisions for the Squad will be made by the Selectors in consultation with the PM/Chef d'Equipe and Team Vet.
- 14.3 Once departure to the Championships has commenced, all selection and de-selection decisions will be made in accordance with 12.3 and 14.4 of this policy.
- 14.4 De-selection will normally only occur in exceptional circumstances (such as injury or illness to athlete or horse, or a performance issue that indicate a combination is unlikely to contribute to the objectives of the policy, or as detailed in 14.6 below).
- 14.5 Selected and Reserve athletes must continue to meet the eligibility requirements and adhere to all reasonable training, preparation, media, and meeting requirements, as well as the requirements outlined in the BEF Team Charter, BEF Rules and BD Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in the athlete and horse combination being de-selected.
- 14.5.1 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 BD, BEF or any other statutory authority, the CEOs of BD and BEF 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.
- 14.5.2 The Athlete will be notified of any review of their selection under section 14.5.1 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 Independent Chair. The outcome of this process shall be final and not open to appeal.
- 14.5.3 Any de-selection decision made within 72 hours in advance of the team travelling from the UK to the point of competition will be deemed final and not subject to further review.

- 14.6 Athletes and horses are expected to maintain fitness and performance. Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected, they must maintain their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the PM/Chef d'Equipe. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss proposed amendments with the PM/Chef d'Equipe could lead to the athlete/horse combination being de-selected.
- 14.7 At any time after the conclusion of the Nominations selection meeting, in the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, a recommendation will be made by the PM/Chef d'Equipe to the Selectors following an examination by a BD appointed Medical Health practitioner. This may involve the athlete being asked to ride certain dressage movements on their selected horse. Being unfit to compete is best described as "not being able to ride their horse in a manner which allows the athlete to produce the standard of performance at which they were selected".
- 14.8 At any time after the conclusion of the Nominations selection meeting, in the case of a horse being considered unfit, due to veterinary reasons, to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, a recommendation will be made by the PM/Chef d'Equipe to the Selectors following an examination by a BD appointed Veterinary Surgeon.
- 14.9 De-selection of a Squad member may occur at any time in line with the terms set out in this policy. The decision to deselect an athlete is not open to appeal; however, a written representation is permissible up until 72 hours prior to team travel, in accordance with clauses 14.5.2 and 14.5.3.

15 General

- 15.1 **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 normal procedure for selection followed wherever possible.
- 15.2 **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, the BEF and BD Boards reserve the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD and Chief Executives of the BEF and BD, either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Squad from competition.
- 15.3 **Communication (publication):** The Selection Policy will be placed on the BD websites and copies will be available on request from the BD offices.
- 15.4 **Enquiries:** Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BD offices.

16 Appeals process and procedures

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Chief Executive of the BEF, 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.
- 16.3 A copy of the appeal must also be submitted to the Chief Executive of BD. 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.

- 16.4 For the avoidance of doubt the Appeal Process shall continue to run during the course of such discussion. However, in the event that both parties notify the BEF (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
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