

## **British Dressage World Breeding Selection Policy for**

### **FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships 2026 Updated 02.02.26 and 21.04.26**

#### **1. Introduction**

This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for the Fédération Equestre Internationale ("FEI") WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships (the "Championships"). The British Dressage Squad for the Championships will be selected by the British Dressage ("BD") Selectors ("the Selectors") in accordance with this Policy and the WBFSH Guidelines.

#### **2. Objective**

The objective of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential to:

- 2.1 win as many individual medals as possible in the five-, six- and seven-year-old classes at the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championships.

#### **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 or individual attending a Selection Meeting, 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:
  - David Trott – Independent Chair of Selectors (non-voting)
  - Judy Harvey – Chief Selector (voting)
  - Jenny Ward – Selector (voting)
  - Anne Keen – Selector (voting)

BD IO Minute Taker (non-voting) – BD International Officer (“BD IO”)

- 4.2 The Independent Chair of Selectors will ensure that the process of selection is followed correctly. The BD IO 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.
- 4.3 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 BD CEO, or their chosen representative, will have the casting and deciding vote.
- 4.4 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 World Breeding Championship Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the BD Board of Directors, the BD CEO, the BD Selectors and the BD International Director (“BD ID”) and in accordance with the FEI & WBFSH rules.

## **6. Changes in Policy**

- 6.1 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 and in order to comply with the FEI and WBFSH rules. 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 BD ID) and the section revised will be published on the BD website.

## **7. Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) availability for consideration for selection**

- 7.1 All athlete/horse combinations must have registered their intent to compete (Section 7.4.a) with BD to be considered for selection at the FEI WBFSH Championships within the timeline set out in Section 10.
- 7.2 All athletes are responsible for ensuring their British passport have a minimum of six (6) months to run after the date of the international competitions (if applicable for qualification) and championships entered.

- 7.3 The IO will ensure that each athlete and horse put forward to the Selectors as being available for selection for international competitions and championships are eligible for consideration, including that:
- a. The athlete must be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland holding a current valid UK passport that is compliant with government guidelines and with Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 119 at the time of the application, selection and until the conclusion of 2026.
  - b. The athlete is a British citizen with a current valid British passport.
  - c. The athlete has been granted a license by the National Federation of Great Britain prior to competing in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
  - d. All athletes will be expected to comply with the FEI and BEF Equine Anti-doping/BEFAR and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, British Equestrian Federation (“BEF”) and WADA rules on Human Anti-doping and all athletes must be eligible 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 any ethical code and is not in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport.
  - e. The athlete is a full (competing) member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD/BEF rules.
  - f. The athlete is fully registered with the FEI prior to any entry being made into international competition.
  - g. The horse is fully registered with BD and is fully registered with the FEI prior to any entry being made into international competition.
  - h. The owner of the horse is a (competing or non-competing) member of BD and not serving any suspension under BD/BEF rules.
  - i. All athletes and the support teams assisting them in the build up to the championships will be expected to abide by any BEF/BD charter which may be in force during the selection process and throughout the FEI WBFSH Championships. The BD Code of Conduct and the British Equestrian Team Charter are set out on the respective BD/BEF websites.  
<https://www.britishdressage.co.uk> and <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk>
  - j. The athlete and horse each satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI Regulations and WBFSH Guidelines and are not, for any reason, ineligible to take part in the Championships under BD, BEF or FEI rules.
  - k. Any combination selected by the Selectors to compete at the Championships will have to be approved by the studbook of the selected horse. The IO will process this application on behalf of the athlete.



## 10. Qualification Process and Timelines

<p><b>UK based combinations</b></p> <p><i>(NB: This also applies to those based abroad who compete in the UK)</i></p>		<p>To qualify for the Final Selection Trial, athlete/horse combinations must follow Route 1 and utilise either Option 1 or Option 2. In both options the MER outlined below must be achieved in order to compete at the Final Selection Trial. Only athlete/horse combinations that compete at the Final Selection Trial will be considered at the Selection meeting.</p>										
<p><b>Route One</b></p>	<p>Option One</p>	<p>Enter and compete in the appropriate age group at one or more of the FEI Preliminary or Final tests held at <b>British Dressage national</b> competitions below:</p> <p><b>Premier League (PL) High Profile (HP)</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Vale View Equestrian (PL)</td> <td>26 Feb – 1 Mar 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myerscough, Lancs (HP)</td> <td>1 – 6 April 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Addington, Bucks (PL)</td> <td>24 – 26 April 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hickstead, W Sussex (PL)</td> <td>11 – 17 May 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wellington Riding, Hamps (PL)</td> <td>2 – 5 June 2026</td> </tr> </table>	Vale View Equestrian (PL)	26 Feb – 1 Mar 2026	Myerscough, Lancs (HP)	1 – 6 April 2026	Addington, Bucks (PL)	24 – 26 April 2026	Hickstead, W Sussex (PL)	11 – 17 May 2026	Wellington Riding, Hamps (PL)	2 – 5 June 2026
Vale View Equestrian (PL)	26 Feb – 1 Mar 2026											
Myerscough, Lancs (HP)	1 – 6 April 2026											
Addington, Bucks (PL)	24 – 26 April 2026											
Hickstead, W Sussex (PL)	11 – 17 May 2026											
Wellington Riding, Hamps (PL)	2 – 5 June 2026											
	<p>Option Two</p>	<p>Submit a video of the combination riding a relevant FEI Prelim or Final age test in order to gain permission from the Selectors to compete in an international CDIYH. This should be submitted to the BD IO at least two weeks prior to the definite entry date of the competition that they wish to attend. Dates can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx">https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx</a></p> <p>The BD IO will confirm to the athlete whether permission has been granted and, if so will make the entry into the CDIYH in line with the FEI entry system and in accordance with the CDI policy.</p> <p>Any CDIYH competition being considered must take place prior to Wellington CDI 2 - 7 June 2026.</p> <p>Having completed the ROI form should the MER be achieved the athlete/horse combination must compete at the Final Selection Trial if they wish to be considered at the Selection Meeting.</p>										
<p><b>Final Selection Trial</b></p>		<p><b>Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER)</b> – in order to qualify to compete at the Final Selection Trial the following score/s must be achieved at least once.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Five- and six-year-old horses</td> <td>total score of 75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seven-year-old horses</td> <td>total score of 70%</td> </tr> </table>	Five- and six-year-old horses	total score of 75%	Seven-year-old horses	total score of 70%						
Five- and six-year-old horses	total score of 75%											
Seven-year-old horses	total score of 70%											

		<p>Athlete/horse combinations who have completed the ROI form and achieved MER via Option 1 or 2 will be notified by the BD IO and must enter and compete at the Final Selection Trial held during Wellington CDI 2 – 7 June 2026.</p> <p>The test ridden at the Final Selection Trial will be the FEI Final test for the appropriate age group.</p> <p>The MER outlined above must also be achieved at the Final Selection Trial in order to be considered at the Selection Meeting for the Championships.</p>
<p><b>Combinations based abroad</b></p> <p><i>(NB: This only applies to those that do not compete in the UK).</i></p>		<p>To qualify to be considered at the Selection meeting for the Championships, athlete/horse combinations must follow Route 2 as outlined below.</p>
<p><b>Route Two</b></p>		<p>Submit a video of the combination riding a relevant FEI Prelim or Final age test in order to gain permission from the Selectors to compete in an international CDIYH.</p> <p>This should be submitted to the BD IO at least two weeks prior to the definite entry date of the competition that they wish to attend. The dates can be found here: <a href="https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx">https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx</a></p> <p>The BD IO will confirm to the athlete whether permission has been granted and, if so, will make the entry into the CDIYH in line with the FEI entry system and in accordance with the CDI policy.</p> <p>Any CDIYH competition being considered must take place prior to Wellington CDI 2 - 7 June 2026.</p> <p><del>The last CDIYH to be eligible for consideration is Achleiten, Austria 11 – 14 June 2026. — Show Cancelled</del></p> <p>Having then competed at a CDIYH a second video should be submitted to the BD IO via WhatsApp no later than close of play 14 June 2026. This video will only be considered at the Selection Meeting if the MER (see Final Selection Trial section above) has been achieved. It must also be of sufficient quality for the selectors to form a decision.</p>

		For athlete/horse combinations following Route 2 MER must be achieved riding the FEI Final test at the CDIYH. If the Final test is not being run at the CDIYH then an additional video of the combination riding the FEI Final test (not in competition) must be sent to the BD IO via WhatsApp no later than close of play 14 June 2026. This option is only available if the show doesn't run the Final test.
Selection Meeting		<p>On or around Monday 15 June (subject to the FEI nominated Definite entry date), the Selectors will select a list of nominated/definite entries (the "Nominated Definite Entries")</p> <p>Athletes will subsequently be informed of the Final Selection meeting outcomes by the BD ID.</p> <p>The nominated/definite Entries will be submitted on the nominated/definite entry date (and subject to receiving the FEI official schedule with confirmation of the nominated entry date).</p> <p>The Selectors may, but are not obliged to, place any Reserve Combinations in rank order.</p>

## 11. Championships Selection Criteria

- 11.1 The Selectors will consider the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion and expert opinion to select athlete/horse combinations onto the squad. They must, always, use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.
- a) **Home bred horses that are registered with a British studbook will have priority in selection over any foreign bred horse/s. National Federation's ("NF") with no eligible home bred horses may nominate a foreign bred horse. This is in accordance with the WBFSH rules.**
  - b) **Home Bred Horse:** A home bred horse is defined as a horse that has been registered SINCE/AT BIRTH with a stud book originating in GBR NF and has a UELN that corresponds to the studbook origin.
  - c) **Foreign Bred Horse:** A foreign bred horse is defined as a horse that has been registered SINCE/AT BIRTH with a stud book of any NF other than GBR and has a UELN that corresponds to the studbook origin.
  - d) To be considered for the Championship, UK based athlete/horse combinations must, at final selection achieve the minimum performance scores ("MPS") outlined below. MPS achieved at any other time will not count towards final selection.

- e) To be considered for the Championships, athlete horse combinations based abroad must have submitted a video performing the relevant FEI age test in which they achieved the minimum performance scores (MPS) outlined below:

Five- and six-year-old horses – a minimum total score of 75%

Seven-year-old horses – a minimum total score of 70%

- f) The anticipated overall performance/development of the athlete/horse combination.
- g) The fitness and health of the horse and ability to compete to full potential.
- h) The athlete and horse will be considered for selection as a combination. A change of rider is not possible following selection. This is in accordance with WBFSH rules.
- i) Participation in final selection and the achievement of FEI MER does not guarantee a place at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Championships.

## **12. De-selection and Substitution**

12.1 At any time between the announcement of the selected athlete/horse combinations and the departure to the Championship, the ID, in consultation with the Selectors and, as appropriate, the BD appointed veterinary surgeon or medical health practitioner, may in the circumstances set out below:

- a) Substitute an athlete/horse combination, and,
- b) Select the next placed athlete/horse combination from the ranked order for the age group to replace any removed athlete/horse combination.

12.2 If the ID considers that an athlete might be unfit to compete (defined 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*”) for medical reasons:

- a) The athlete will be examined by a BD appointed athlete medical health practitioner.
- b) Such an examination may, at the discretion of the ID, involve the athlete being required to ride certain dressage movements relevant to the athlete’s condition.
- c) The decision as to whether to substitute that athlete/horse combination will be made by the Selectors, after completion of the examination, in consultation with the athlete medical health practitioner.

12.3 If the ID or BD appointed veterinary surgeon considers that a horse might be unfit to compete due to veterinary reasons, or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated at the time of selection to the Squad due to veterinary reasons:

- a) The horse will be examined by the BD appointed veterinary surgeon.
  - b) The decision as to whether to substitute that athlete/horse combination will be made by the Selectors, after completion of that examination, in consultation with the BD approved veterinary surgeon.
- 12.4 It is a condition of selection that all reasonable efforts will be made to maintain fitness, form and performance in a suitable training and competition programme to be agreed with the ID. Failure to follow such a programme, or agreeing an alternative programme with the ID, could lead to the athlete/horse combination being de-selected, substituted or withdrawn.

### 13. General

- 13.1. **Cancellation/postponement** – in the event of cancellation of any Championships, the relevant parties will be notified straight away. In the event of postponement of any Championships, a situation may arise where new and/or different athlete/horse combinations need to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and the normal procedure for selection will be followed, wherever possible.
- 13.2. **Force majeure** – in the event of exceptional circumstances beyond BD's control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the BD Board reserves the right to make the decision to change the Selection Policy and/or the procedure for selection, which might include withdrawing the team and/or individuals from Championships.
- 13.3 **Communication (publication)** – this Selection Policy will be published on the BD website. [www.britishdressage.co.uk](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk)
- 13.4 **Enquiries** – BD International Officer, Lianne Martin  
[lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk](mailto:lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk) Tel: 02476 698835

### 14. Appeals Process and Procedures

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 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.

14.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeal Process shall continue to run during such discussion. However, in the event that all parties notify the BEF (within one working day of receipt of the notice of appeal) that such discussion or 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  
December 2025**

**Updated 21.04.26**