

INTER COUNTY CHALLENGE SELECTION POLICY 2026



1. OBJECTIVE OF SELECTION POLICY

- 1.1 The over-riding objective of the ICC Selection Policy is to guide selection of County teams in a fair, equitable and transparent way. Selection for Teams is open to all South & East Riders and British Dressage members.
- 1.2 Selection is subject to compliance with British Dressage, BEF and FEI Rules on doping and medication control for Humans and Equines.
- 1.3 The Selection Policy applies to the selection of combinations / teams for the Inter County Challenge
- 1.4 Although unaffiliated, British Dressage rules apply. However whips and commanders are permitted.
- 1.5 Entries for training, team selection and for the final will be made using our online entry system by booking the relevant county event.

2. CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

- 2.1 The County Co-ordinator (CCO) is responsible for ensuring that all riders, horses, and ponies selected have current British Dressage membership.
- 2.2 It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that they are eligible for selection at their nominated level, according to the rules and schedule at close of entry. Only combinations fulfilling the criteria stated in the Selection Policy will be considered for selection. Only riders who are eligible at Bronze may apply.
- 2.3 Riders applying for consideration for selection MUST ensure their availability for the dates of the respective competition they are applying for.
- 2.4 Selected riders will have the option to stable onsite for the duration and must attend the overall prize giving at the end of the competition.
- 2.5 Combinations who have competed at a Winter or Summer National Championship (in the last four years up to and including 2026) are not eligible to compete. Combinations who have competed at Area Festival Championships may compete at the level above.
- 2.6 All competing horses must be a minimum of 4 years old as of 1 January 2026
- 2.7 Combinations who have competed at the Senior Inter Regionals or Home Nations (Youth or Senior) are eligible to apply but this must be at the level above.
- 2.8 Grading points are not awarded for this competition and the results, although shared via social media, will not be recorded on the riders record.

3. THE PROCESS

- 3.1 Participating in regional training ensures access to high-quality instruction from fully qualified and insured BD accredited and recognised coaches. It also fosters team spirit and the opportunity to form new friendships.

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- 3.2 Viewing Days (training and information days) will be run in the counties between January and April (inclusive)
- 3.3 Test riding days will be held in May – there may be more than one depending on numbers. These will be judged by a BD judge, and the results will be used to determine team places.
- 3.4 County Training days, social events, fund-raising and get-togethers will be organised throughout the month of June.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1 The Selectors reserve the right not to send a team or individual to any competition.
- 4.2 A rider may try out on with multiple horses or apply with a single horse at multiple levels. However, a team space will be allocated to just ONE combination.
- 4.3 In exceptional circumstances (for example, if the county has too few riders who meet the required eligibility levels), this restriction may be waived, with the approval of the Development Officer.

5. SELECTION

- 5.1 Selection will be made by a county holding a test riding day (this can be just test riding or can be run as a show with rosettes and prizes). Scores will be posted on the county Facebook page and related social media for transparency
- 5.2 Counties will keep a full record which will be sent to the DO for verification before teams are announced
- 5.3 Team riders and reserves may come forward and join the training days organised by counties in June, however these days are not compulsory.
- 5.4 A list of selected combinations and non-travelling reserves will be published on the county Facebook pages following selection on the publicised team announcement date.
- 5.5 Dates

Date of Competition	Viewing Days	Test Riding Days	Team Training and Socials	Teams Verified by	Teams Announced on	Entries Close
11-12 July	Jan 1 – April 30	1-31 May	1-30 June	6 June	8 June	5 July

- 5.6 Eligibility
 - 5.6.1 This competition is designed specifically for grass roots riders and is therefore open to bronze combinations only.

5.6.2 Where exclusions are noted, this applies to the combination of rider and horse. For example, if you and your horse have been to the Winter or National Championships (excluding Area Festival Championships) in the last four years, you may not compete on that horse.

5.6.3 Each county will have 1 team of 12. The teams will be made up as follows: Two Intro Riders, four Prelim riders, four Novice Riders and two Elementary riders

6. SELECTION PANEL

6.1 Selection will be made solely on results gained at the test riding day(s) organised by the county.

6.2 The Selection Panel will consist of the following and will be chosen on the basis that they have no conflict of interests:

- County Coordinator
- County Coaches
- DO/Vice Chair

6.3 Final Team selection will be independently verified by the Development Officer before the teams are announced and the riders notified.

7. CHANGING COUNTY

7.1 Riders may try out for a county of their choice, ideally the horse and / or the rider will reside in that county. Once a rider nominates a county they cannot try out for another county?

8. SUBSTITUTION

8.1 The Selectors may substitute a team member for a reserve between the announcement of the team and up to 5pm the evening before the competition. However, a substitution should only occur in the case of rider health or a veterinary concern. If the County is unable to supply a substitute, then riders from other counties can be approached (these riders will be held on a database by the DO, and will be made up of riders who have test ridden for their own county but not secured a team place).

9. CONFIDENTIALITY

9.1 It is vitally important that there is a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection. This applies to all those involved, riders, owners, selectors, and other officials.

10. TEAM SPIRIT

10.1 Team spirit is of the utmost importance. British Dressage expects riders, families, and supporters to commit willingly to all aspects of preparation for team competitions as laid down by their county. Riders will be expected to agree and abide by a team code of conduct.

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- 10.2 Riders selected to represent their county in the Inter County will be invited to attend a team information meeting hosted by their county prior to the event.

11. FITNESS

- 11.1 While good results in competitions are important, the onus is on the riders not to over campaign their horses / ponies.
- 11.2 It is important that riders plan, so they and their horse / pony are in the best form for the designated competition.

12. FINANCE

- 12.1 The Inter County competition will be entirely self-funded by riders. Counties may conduct fund-raising activities to assist riders with the funding of attendance at the competition.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR HORSE WELFARE AND MEMBERS

- 13.1 There must be commitment from all riders to adhere to British Dressage code of conduct for Horse Welfare and for Members, upholding the highest standards at all times. Please refer to the relevant sections in the 2026 BD members' handbook for full details.

14. RULES

- 14.1 All Selected riders agree to always abide by the rules of the competition at all times.

15. POLICY CHANGES

- 15.1 The S&E Committee will have the right to amend or change selection policies where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Selection Policy as long as these changes and amendments are clearly communicated to all parties.

16. CANCELLATION / POSTPONEMENT

- 16.1 In the event of cancellation, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation might arise where a new and/or different team needs to be selected in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

17. FORCE MAJEURE

- 17.1 In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond British Dressage's control (e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war, or terrorism), the BD S&E Committee reserves the right to make the decision

either to change the Selection Policy or procedure, which might include withdrawing the Teams from competition or cancelling the competition.

18. VETERINARY / MEDICAL

- 18.1 Selected riders must immediately notify their DO of any change in their own health or fitness status, their equine health status or any veterinary / medical management that is being undertaken.

19. ENQUIRIES

- 19.1 Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made by contacting the DO in the first instance.

20. OBJECTION PROCESS

- 20.1 The decision of the Selectors is final and binding and not subject to an appeals process.
- 20.2 An athlete may raise an Objection to the Selection Decision, but an Objection may only be made upon the following grounds:
- 20.2.1 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
 - 20.2.2 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.
- 20.3 An athlete wishing to object to the Selection Decision should raise their Objection in writing to the S&E Chair and Vice Chair. Objections must be received within 48 hours of the athlete being notified of the decision.
- 20.4 The Objection must set out the grounds, as detailed in 20.2 above, and include the evidence and any other documentation or information relied upon.
- 20.5 The Chair and Vice Chair will review the Objection, in consultation with the Development Officer. They will then either:
- 20.5.1 Refer the decision back to the Selectors
 - 20.5.2 Replace their own decision for the purposes of Selection, or
 - 20.5.3 Reject the grounds for the Objection.
- 20.6 The Chair and Vice Chair will provide a written decision based on the information provided as soon as is practically possible, and in any event within 48 hours of the Objection. Their decision shall be final, and not subject to any further review or appeal.