British Dressage Youth Panel

British Dressage (BD) is the national governing body for the Olympic and Paralympic sport of dressage and a member of British Equestrian. With over 17,000 members and over 3,600 aged under 25, BD aims to be the most respected and successful organisation for people passionate about dressage.

Our role is to develop the sport in the UK at all levels and enable riders of all abilities, from grassroots to the international stage, to fulfil their potential and achieve their goals, through a comprehensive range of training and competition opportunities.

Role Description
The purpose of the Youth Panel is to give a voice to young people within British Dressage. BD Youth works to provide activities, training, and opportunities to young people across Britain. The Youth panel are responsible for assisting in the development and improvement of BD Youth's provision, whilst ensuring that the perspective of young members is acknowledged and considered in decision making.

Specific Responsibilities

- Acting as champions of young members, the panel will support the BD Youth Technical Committee and Regional Committees by advising, driving and advocating the work of BD Youth.
- Identifying current areas for improvement in the engagement of young people within BD Youth.
- Representing the views of young members, gathering and providing feedback on new and existing training and education activity.
- Representing the best interests of British Dressage.
- Operating with strong moral principles, honesty and decency, in accordance with British Dressage guidelines and policy.
- Advocating for young people within British Dressage.

The Youth Panel will:

- Represent British Dressage in specific activity and PR, being a role model for others.
- Showcase the work of the Youth Panel through key communication channels, including social media.
- Be ambassadors for BD Youth at all times, both online and in person.
- Plan, review, and implement decisions relating to the Youth Panel's objectives.

Person Specification

- Act as an advocate of British Dressage and the perspective of young members.
- Represent regional BD Youth riders.
- Be open to obtaining and sharing the perspectives of, and feedback from, other young people.
- Present ideas and perspectives at meetings.
- Work as a collective with other panel members.
- Support British Dressage's vision and objectives.
- Act as a youth advisor, using current and previous experiences to support others.

The Youth Panel are responsible to the Technical Committee for:

- Reviewing the objectives for BD Youth and where appropriate making suggestions and recommendations to ensure they are applicable for young members.
- Where appropriate, making recommendations on operations and activity to ensure the youth perspective is considered.
- Advocating the youth perspective to influence decision making, policy and practice within BD Youth.
- Reviewing the performance of the Youth Panel.
- Completing an annual review of the Youth Panel activity.

Areas of Interest:

We are looking for individuals who may have specific interest, experience or qualifications in any of the following areas to ensure input from a range of perspectives. Applications are also welcome from individuals with other areas of interest and experience.

- Somebody who has recently joined BD Youth
- Previous/current Academy Athlete
- Previous/current International Team rider
- Experience riding at regional team competitions
- Previous/current Quest competitor
- Qualified Coach, Judge or Steward
- Cross discipline rider
- Apprentice or employed in a dressage yard
- Graduate or student in equine science/veterinary/physiotherapy or similar area of study
- A rider from a non-equine family background
- Interest/experience in environmental sustainability
- Competing BD members aged 25-27 who have 'graduated' BD Youth

Terms of Service

- This is a voluntary role.
- All Youth Panel members must be aged 16-25, or 25-27 who are still BD Members.
- All Youth Panel members are subject to a maximum length of two consecutive terms of two years (members aged 25-27 will be limited to one term of two years).
- All Panel members are required to be at least a Club member of BD.
- This role will be reviewed annually by the Youth Committee.
- All panel members will be expected to attend a maximum of four quarterly meetings online, with the possibility for one annual meeting to take place in person for team building/project work.

Start Date

- Autumn 2026.

Opportunities
In return for their contribution to the British Dressage Youth Panel, individuals will have opportunity to access to development activities.
These may include (but are not limited to):

- Volunteering at major events
- Participating in media training
- Providing input into the training activity, opportunities and objectives of BD Youth
- Collaborating with young people in other sports
- Attending industry-relevant training and networking sessions
- Representing the Youth Panel at BD Youth Committee meetings

The Youth Panel is an opportunity for individuals to develop key skills such as leadership, communication and collaboration. It is an opportunity to develop a network with other young people with similar interests and varied backgrounds from across Britain.

Panel members may also be offered to opportunity to work with key partners and young people from other organisations.