



BD YOUTH REGIONAL SELECTION POLICY 2024

1. OBJECTIVE OF SELECTION POLICY

- 1.1 The over-riding objective of the BD Youth Selection Policy is to guide selection of regional teams in a fair, equitable and transparent way. Selection for Youth teams is open to all British Dressage members from the beginning of the calendar year of their 8th birthday until the end of the calendar year of their 25th birthday.
- 1.2 Selection is subject to compliance with British Dressage, BEF and FEI Rules on doping and medication control for Human and Equine.
- 1.3 The Selection Policy applies to the selection of riders / teams for the following competitions:
 - **BD Youth Inter-Regional Competition**
 - **BD Youth Home Nations Competition**

2. CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

- 2.1 The Development Officer (DO) is responsible for ensuring that all riders, horses and ponies available for selection have current full British Dressage membership. The only exception to this is for the Youth Inter-Regional, where D Squad riders are permitted to take part with a current BD Club membership.
- 2.2 It is the parents'/riders' responsibility to ensure that combinations are eligible for selection at their nominated level, according to the rules and schedule at the close of entry. Only combinations fulfilling the criteria stated in the Selection Policy will be considered for selection.
- 2.3 Riders applying for consideration for selection MUST ensure their availability for the dates of the respective competition they are applying for. Received applications will deem to be automatic acceptance of the published competition dates.
- 2.4 Selected riders will be required to stable onsite for the duration and must attend the overall prize giving at the end of the competition.
- 2.5 Riders may only represent their region in one category each calendar year (i.e. BD Youth or Senior). Para riders may go forwards for the Para Home Nations and one other regional team competition in the same calendar year.

3. BD YOUTH TEAMS ELIGIBILITY

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

3.1 **Squad Assessment**

- 3.1.1 Riders are required to have attended a Formal Squad Assessment either in-person or online between 1 December 2023 and 20 May 2024. This must be a formally arranged BD session and not booked through Flexi training.

3.2 **Horse Care**

- 3.2.1 For riders to be eligible for regional teams, each individual will be required to have completed the online modules of the Introductory Certificate for Horse Care or hold equivalent qualifications which grant direct entry. Anyone with a Pony Club C test or above, BHS Stage 1 or above, or similar qualifications can apply for direct entry. Please send a copy of your relevant certificate to hannah.james@britishdressage.co.uk to be recorded.

3.3 **Training**

- 3.3.1 Rider and pony/horse combinations are required to attend **three** BD training events in the 12-month period preceding the final selection date. BD training events are categorised as activities listed on the regional Horse Monkey booking system including Flexi training. Attendance at Regional Training in other regions may be included and riders should inform their DO if they have attended training in another region.
- 3.3.2 Residential camps, including regional training camps, Foundation Academies, National Academy, and international training camps will be counted as **two** BD Regional Training events.
- 3.3.3 **One** non-ridden educational session will count towards eligibility (e.g., Zoom events, veterinary talks, volunteering at a venue, writing / marshalling / scoring etc. (if age appropriate). This list is not exhaustive. Events not mentioned may count if agreed with your DO, so please check.
- 3.3.4 **One** ridden session may be to ride as a demonstration rider at an official BD event.
- 3.3.5 Riders will be required to provide competition results and details of their training criteria via an online application. All applications must be submitted on or before the cut-off date for team applications.

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 submit scores from 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 region has too few riders who meet the required eligibility levels), this restriction may be waived with the approval of the Sport Operations Manager.
- 4.4 **BD Youth Inter-Regional Competition**
- 4.4.1 Levels: D, C, C+, B, B+, A Squad.
- 4.4.2 Riders in B, B+ or A squad riding young horses Aged 5 or 6 (to the end of the calendar year) will compete at their Squad Level but may choose to ride the relevant Young Horse test to accommodate their horse's level of development.

4.4.3 **Requirements:**

- Squad Assessment (as defined above)
- Horse Care (as defined above)
- Attendance at three BD training sessions which can include attendance for Squad Assessment and Rider Skills Tests (as defined above)
- Three rider skills test scores in the 12 months preceding selection.
- At least one result must have been obtained after 1 December 2023
- Minimum of two different assessors over the three scores.
- Results may be obtained from any official regional / national BD Youth training event, camp, or competition, including the BD Youth Foundation Academy.
- Rider Skills test sheets must be achieved with a registered BD Youth Assessor and can be completed during organised regional training, flexi training or competition.
- Results achieved via online providers are not permitted.
- In the event of a rider moving up a squad level within the year (i.e. prior to a regional competition), one of the submitted results may be the final score at the lower level.
- Past and present European Championship riders may only compete at A Squad / A Squad Young Horse on a different horse / pony.

4.5 **BD Youth Home Nations Competition**

4.5.1 Levels: Preliminary, Novice, Elementary and Medium

4.5.2 All competing horses must be a minimum of 5 years old as of 1 January 2024.

4.5.3 **Requirements:**

- Squad Assessment (as defined above)
- Horse Care (as defined above)
- Attendance at three BD training sessions (as defined above)
- Four scores at affiliated dressage competitions in the 12 months preceding selection.
- Minimum of two scores to be within six months of the submission deadline.
- Minimum of two scores from qualifier tests (marked by an * and detailed on page 155-157 of the BD Members' Handbook 2024).
- Minimum of two different judges over the 4 scores.
- Scores to be achieved at a minimum of two different venues.
- Only scores achieved at the relevant level can be considered (i.e. the level at which the rider is hoping to compete).
- Freestyle, Quest, Associated Championship, Dressage Anywhere and HC scores cannot be considered at any level.
- When using scores from a panel, the overall result must be submitted as it appears on the BD results page.
- Scores achieved at previous BD Youth Home Nations can be used provided that they were achieved in the 12 months preceding selection and are recorded on the British Dressage results page.

4.6 **FEI Classes at Youth Home Nations**

4.6.1 Individual FEI classes will be held at the following levels: Children on Horses, Pony, Junior, Young Rider

4.6.2 Riders may apply for individual FEI classes in addition or instead of a team place application, but all criteria and requirements as above must be met.

4.6.3 Riders may submit scores at the equivalent levels:

- Children on Horses – Elementary
- Pony – Medium
- Junior – Advanced Medium
- Young Rider – Prix St George

4.6.4 FEI scores cannot be used for a team application.

5. **SELECTION PROCESS**

5.1 The average score of each combination will be calculated and selection will be based on the highest average scores at each level.

5.2 Where different riders' average scores are within 2%, selectors will review each rider's competition record and any other relevant information. Selection decisions will be finalised from the following:

- Consistency and recent form at the level for which the combination is applying
- Past form at major/team events
- Results gained in 20 x 60 arena
- Results gained from a panel of judges.

5.3 A list of selected combinations will be published on the regional pages of the BD website and regional social media pages following selection. on the publicised team announcement date.

5.4 **Selection Dates**

Competition scores and regional training being used for selection should be achieved in the 12 months prior to the cut- off date in the table below.

Date of Competition	Event	Cut-Off Dates for Training and Results	Teams Verified	Teams Announced	Entries Close
29 – 30 June 2024	BD Youth Inter Regionals, Arena UK	20 May 2024	31 May 2024	5 June 2024	19 June 2024
2 – 4 August 2024	BD Youth Home Nations, The David Broome Event Centre	24 June 2024	28 June 2024	3 July 2024	22 July 2024

5.5 **Eligibility for Classes**

5.5.1 There is additional information about which horses or riders are eligible to take part in each class. Please see the BD Members Handbook 2024 for general rule 184 (page 183) and rules 187 / 188 (page 185) for regional team competitions and eligibility.

5.6 **Youth Inter Regionals**

5.6.1 Each Team can comprise of four riders from D, C, C+, B, B+, A Squad.

5.6.2 Teams must include riders from at least three different squads.

5.7 Youth Home Nations

5.7.1 Each team can comprise of four riders from Preliminary, Novice, Elementary and Medium.

5.7.2 Each team rider must be at a different level, whether in a team of 3 or 4.

6. SELECTION PANEL

6.1 All Selectors will be appointed by the British Dressage Regional Committee. They will have the knowledge and experience required to effectively select teams and will be as free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest as is possible. A register of Declarations of Interest will be maintained by the CEO of British Dressage and is available for inspection.

6.2 If any member of the Selection Panel would like to be considered for selection, then they must stand down from the Selection Panel for the relevant event and should not take part in any of the selection processes for this event.

6.3 If anyone of the Selectors is either the parent/legal guardian or has privately trained any rider who is being considered for selection, they will agree to stand down from selecting riders & ponies/horses for that competition.

6.4 In the event of the Youth Representative and / or the Regional Chair being a BD Youth Coach in that region they must step down from selection and be replaced by a second non-involved individual. In the case of the Youth Representative, they may still participate in the selection process in an advisory but non-voting capacity.

6.5 The BD Youth Selection Panel will consist of the following and will be chosen on the basis that they have no conflicts of interest:

- Youth Representative
- Regional Chair
- One other individual considered to have suitable experience and no perceived conflict of interest.

6.6 Final team selection will be independently verified by a senior representative of British Dressage before the teams are announced and riders notified.

7. CHANGING REGION

7.1 Riders are eligible for regional teams in the region relevant to their home postal address or region the rider has opted to represent.

7.2 The rider must inform both the relevant DOs, prior to submitting their team application form, if they elect to represent a region different to their home postal address.

7.3 A rider may only ride for one region in any calendar year.

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.

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 region. Riders will be expected to agree and abide by a team code of conduct.
- 10.2 Riders selected to represent their region in the BD Youth Inter-Regional or the BD Youth Home Nations will be expected to attend a virtual team information meeting hosted by their region prior to the event.

11. FITNESS

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

12. FINANCE

- 12.1 All Inter Regional and Home Nations competitions will be entirely self-funded by riders. Regions may conduct fund-raising activities to assist riders with the funding of attendance at the competition. Details will be available via the DO.

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 members, upholding the highest standards at all times. Please refer to the relevant sections in the 2024 BD members' handbook for full details.

14. RULES

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

15. POLICY CHANGES

- 15.1 The BD Youth 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 straight away. In the event of postponement a situation might 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 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 British Dressage Board 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 your DO in the first instance.

20. APPEALS PROCESS

- 20.1 Riders have the right to appeal against the decision of the Selectors. Appeals must be made in writing within 48 hours of the announcements. Appeals must be sent in writing to the Chief Executive of British Dressage. The decision of the BD Chief Executive is final.

**Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive
December 2023**