

**Guidelines to competing at FEI Senior International Competitions**

**Please read this important document in its entirety**

**Process for applying for international shows**

If you wish to compete at an international competition, you must first check the current selection policy to see whether you are eligible this can be found on the British Dressage website <https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/our-sport/international-teams/senioru25-selection-information/>

There is a Competition plan form to register your interest in competitions , you will be required to state which competition, horse and level you would like to compete at and confirm where you achieved your qualifying score. You will then need to email this to the British Dressage International department .

You will be asked if you would like to be included on the International mailing list. This is used primarily to update riders on any matters international and communicate show information.

Once a show schedule has been received (up to 6 - 8 weeks before competition) it is sent to all riders on the International Riders email list, it will explain all details about the show and what you will need to do next as a rider. All information about the show from entry dates, accommodation, stabling, price money etc is all in this document.

The British Dressage office will log your interest on the show planner and discuss it with the selectors. You will then be notified (approx. 4 – 6 weeks prior to definite entry date). The British Dressage office will confirm whether you have been selected or are a reserve for a competition and what to do next. Riders must always enter international competitions through their National Federation and the British Dressage office.

If you are offered a reserve place you will be notified as soon as we know more places have become available. If you offered a selected place, you will be asked to complete an entry form, FEI registration forms for yourself and your horse and apply for an FEI Recognition card (FEI Passport) if required.

Ther British Dressage office will then make your entry in time for the definite entry deadline via the FEI online entry system, once this has been accepted by the organisers you will be sent by email the FEI confirmation of your entry.

**FEI Rider & Horse Licenses**

Each combination will be required to have an FEI rider and horse license; this must be renewed each calendar year (1 Jan – 31 Dec). Riders must complete the forms and return with payment to the British Dressage office. Riders will not receive any confirmation but are able to check their numbers and information online here - <https://data.fei.org/Person/Search.aspx> or on the FEI athlete app. With the online entry system entries are now unable to be made without you or your horse being registered.

**FEI Recognition card (FEI Passports) & Vaccinations**

At an international competition you will require an FEI Recognition card, to apply for a recognitions card you will need to complete an application form which can be found here <https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/our-sport/international-teams/senioru25-selection-information/>

The FEI Recognitions card is a cover of the horse’s national passport (which all horses are now required to have) and therefore the national passport must comply with the FEI rules. It must be correctly filled out by the owner and ownership details, microchip number must be clearly shown, diagrammatic page stamped & signed by a VET, correct Vaccination record which can be found here <https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/veterinarians/biosecurity-movements/vaccinations>

A FEI Recognition card is valid for 4 years and then needs to be renewed, the expiry dates are stated on the front of the recognition card initially. Once it is revalidated the date will be shown on a yellow sticker on the back of the white booklet.

**GB Flags & Saddle Cloth Badges**

Riders will be permitted to wear Union Jack flags on their breast pocket and saddle cloth, for Team competitions a Red Team flag will be issued to you. These can be obtained from the British Dressage office and the rules on wearing them in the British Dressage rule book <https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/competitions/competition-rules/>

**FEI Horse App / EHV**

This is now a mandatory part of competing. You need to download the FEI Horse app to your phone; you will need your FEI rider no and also your FEI Recognition card/ FEI Horse Registration no which are the same number.

For full information on the rules click here - <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/competitors/fei-horseapp/using-the-fei-horseapp>

**Nominated Entries (Championships only)**

With the FEI online entry system nominated entries are now only used for Nations cups team and Championship competitions. Each nation is informed how many athletes they can send, and the nominated entries consist of twice this number. This includes all possible athletes that may compete according to the BD selectors. It is not a final list of who will be competing. Between nominated and definite entry dates, riders will be contacted to be told whether they will be definitely entered as per the selector’s final decision. At this point riders will be required to promptly complete entry forms and FEI registration for horse and rider and in some cases an FEI passport. Please read through the schedule and take note of the important information.

**Definite Entries**

These entries consist of names and final details of athletes and horses that will take part at the event and must be received by the organising committee of the competition at the dates mentioned in the schedule. In order for this to take place riders must have completed their entry information including classes wishing to be entered and submitted this to the British Dressage well in advance of this date.

**Competition Show Entry Fee**

When riders have been notified that they have been definitely entered, they will be required to pay the secretary of the competition directly the full entry fee or as per the FEI schedule.

**Clean Sport**

It is the rider’s responsibility to ensure that if they or their horse is dope tested under no circumstances could there be any substance in their urine or blood which could come up as a positive test and eliminate them from the competition. For websites please to the global DRO website [www.globaldro.com](http://www.globaldro.com) for your horse www.feicleansport.com/search

**Travelling**

**Due to current Brexit / Covid regulations we do not offer travel advice.**

**We recommend that you speak to your shipping/ transporter and check the gov.uk website for Covid rules for each country and also the exporting of animals to Europe.**

**Arrival at the Competition**

Once at the competition horses are required to stay on site and bridle numbers are to be always worn (on bridles and head collars). Riders are to have familiarised themselves with the procedure for the trot up. Riders are reminded that they are representing their Country and to uphold the highest level of etiquette and professionalism with other competitors as well as competition officials. There will be allocated slots in which riders can use the arena for warm up purposes and the secretary will advise of this.

Please make sure you have familiarised yourselves with the FEI General Regulations and Dressage specific rules [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org) .

**Veterinary Inspection / Trot Up**

This normally takes place the day before the competition starts and the official vet will check that the horse matches the passport and that the vaccinations are up to date. Each rider/trainer in turn will bring the horse for inspection and trot it in hand so that soundness can be assessed. You are expected to be smartly dressed. First impressions to the competition officials will count. The horse should be plaited with hooves oiled and tail pulled or plaited. Your horse should wear a snaffle bridle. If he is difficult to control and you need to use a chain or a double bridle, you must get permission from the President of the Ground Jury. The bridle must be clean have your number attached to it. Ensure you are ready well in advance, you will be in a holding area for the few minutes prior to your individual slot.

Warming up, ensure you and the horse is suitably warmed up and supple for the presentation. It is advisable to wear boots for this part to prevent injury to the horse’s legs.

Ensure you remove all boots and pick out the horses’ feet and give your horse a final polish prior to being called.

For the presentation stand yourself in front of the judges and your horse, holding the reins in both hands one either side of the bit keeping your horse still while he is inspected. The judges will then ask you to walk to the first marker, trot to the second, and prepare to walk and then turn back trotting past the judges.

It is important to remember to keep your horse straight in a good rhythm with impulsion so as not to cause an un-level stride. Ensure you prepare to turn and don’t ask your horse to turn too tightly. The judges will then confirm whether you have passed the inspection.

If you are unlucky enough not to be accepted, follow the directions of the steward and keep your horse warmed up and ready for re-presenting.

**Post - Competition**

After the competition remember to settle your account, pick up anything you need to i;e plaques, claim your prize money at which point you will get your horse’s passport back, thank the organiser and secretary. Leave your stables and the area where you have parked your vehicle clean and tidy disposing of all litter. British riders in future years will benefit from the impression you leave behind.

**Administration**

Your entries will be made by the British Dressage office and any communication will come through the office from the show organisers before, during and after competition.

**British Dressage office contact information**

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