

British Dressage Para Equestrian Dressage Selection Policy FEI CPEDI 1*/2*/3* Competitions 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for CPEDI 1*/2*/3*s 2025. The athlete/horse combinations will be selected by the British Dressage ("**BD**") Selectors ("**the Selectors**"), in accordance with this Policy.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The purpose of this Selection Policy is to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential to achieve its objectives.
- 2.1.1 **Primary Objective:** To fulfil the identified performance and preparation needs of athlete/horse combinations campaigning for the European Championships 2025.
- 2.1.2 **Secondary Objective:** To provide a competitive opportunity for athlete/horse combinations that have the potential to develop into medal winning contenders at future championships.
- 2.1.3 **Tertiary Objective:** To provide athlete/horse combinations with the opportunity to compete in international competitions, where possible, to develop their experience and support performance progression.

3. Confidentiality

- 3.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy, and out of respect for the athletes, owners, Selectors, staff, and other parties, that there is 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 the 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

- 4.1 Throughout this Selection Policy the term "Selectors" refers to the three (3) voting Selectors.
- 4.2 Selectors will be appointed by the BD Board based on having the knowledge and expertise required to select athletes to represent Great Britain at this level and will be free of all vested interests/conflicts of interest, in so far as is possible.

4.3 The 2025 CPEDI Selection Panel shall be comprised of:

- Para Director (PD) – Tracy Ormrod (voting)
- Selector – Islay Auty (voting)
- Selector – Pamella Bushell (voting)

4.4 Meetings of the Selectors will be chaired by the PD or their nominee. The following individuals may, at the Selectors' request, be invited to attend Selection Meetings (in person or remotely) in a non-voting capacity as experts, for the purpose of assisting the Selectors to select the combinations and shall play such part in any Selection Meetings as the Selectors consider appropriate:

- Performance Manager (PM) – Georgina Sharples
- Performance Pathway Manager (PPM)– Erik Mackechnie - Guire
- Para International Officer – (PIO) – Natasha Pearce

4.4.1 The purpose of the expert is to assist the Selectors to select the athlete/horse combinations by providing relevant information, insight, and expert opinion, including, but not limited to, the process of selection, assessment of past and anticipated performance and associated risk factors:

4.5 All Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as they arise, using the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration form. The PIO will maintain a register and is responsible for informing the British Dressage Chief Executive ("BD CEO"). If a Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector should step down from discussion involving the conflict.

4.6 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 PD will have the casting and deciding vote. In the event of the PD being required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest, one of the remaining selectors, as nominated by the BD CEO, will have the casting and deciding vote.

4.7 Throughout the selection process, the Selectors will act as experts, and are entitled within this Selection Policy, having regard to the Minimum Performance Standards (MPS) and Selection criteria set out below, to use their discretion to select athlete/horse combinations. 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 Para Selection Policy for CPEDI competitions is compiled in consultation with the BD Board of Directors, the BD CEO, the Selectors and the PM.

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 in order to fulfil the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the BD CEO and the PD. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the PD) and the sections revised will be published on the BD website.

7. Eligibility Requirements and availability for consideration for selection

- 7.1 All athlete/horse combinations must have indicated their show preferences with the PIO to be considered for selection within the timeline set out in Section 7.
- 7.2 All athletes are responsible for ensuring their British passport/s have a minimum of six (6) months to run after the date of the competition entered.
- 7.3 The PIO will ensure that each athlete and horse put forward to the Selectors as being available for selection for international competitions is eligible for consideration, including that:
- a. The athlete must be a national of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in compliance with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) General Regulations, 24th Edition, Article 119 at the time of the application, selection and until the conclusion of 2025.
 - b. The athlete is a British Citizen with a current valid British passport.
 - c. The athlete has been granted a licence by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events, in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Articles 113.
 - d. All athletes will be expected to comply with the FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, 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 at least 14 years of age.
 - f. The athlete is a full member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD / BEF rules.
 - g. The athlete is fully registered with the FEI prior to any entry being made into an international competition.
 - h. The horse is fully registered with BD and is fully registered with the FEI prior to any entry being made into international competition.
 - i. The owner/s of the horse is a competing or non-competing member of BD and not serving any suspension under BD / BEF rules.
 - j. The athlete and horse each satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria as defined in the FEI Regulations and are not, for any reason, ineligible to take part in the competition under BEF, FEI or BD rules.
 - k. Athletes, their owners, grooms, coaches, partner and their Sports Science Medicine Team (collectively known as the “Home Team”) will be expected to abide by any BEF / BD charter which may be in force during the selection process and throughout the competition. 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>

- 7.4 In addition, prior to being considered for selection, an athlete/horse combination will be expected to have achieved at least once Minimum Performance Standards (MPS) as laid out in the tables below. They must be achieved at the level at which they want to compete internationally.
- a. MPS must be achieved within the 12 months preceding the date of the first FEI international competition the athlete wishes to be considered for AND fall within the timeframes for definite entries applicable to the proposed competition.
 - b. British athletes based and competing abroad, are required to send in video footage of their qualifying test via WhatsApp to the PIO.
 - c. Scores and qualifications will be checked by the PIO.
 - d. The Selectors will have the right to select athlete/horse combinations that may not have achieved the requisite scores if in their opinion it is in the interests of the Objectives, as detailed in Section 2 of this Policy.
 - e. Achievement of MPS does not guarantee selection.
 - f. Scores gained in any Freestyle to music tests will not be considered.

Minimum Performance Standards

CPEDI1*		
A Minimum of two scores of 65% or above in the Intermediate Test A at Para- Equestrian Dressage competitions. PYO scores will not count.	&	One score of 65% or above must be gained at one of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BD Silver Championship Classes (Summer or Winter) - CPEDI 1*
Qualification for domestic CPEDI2*		
An average, across a minimum of two scores of 66% or above in the Grand Prix A, Grand Prix Test B or Intermediate Test A at Para-Equestrian Dressage competition. PYO scores will not count.	&	One score of 66% or above must be gained at one of the following competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BD Silver or Gold Championship classes, inclusive of qualifying classes (Summer or Winter qualification season) - Gold Summer Semi Final - CPEDI 2*
Qualification for overseas CPEDI2*		
Athlete and Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved the criteria stated in the CPEDI2* in the Grand Prix A, Grand Prix Test B or Intermediate Test A test for their grade.	&	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 66% in the Grand Prix A, Grand Prix Test B or Intermediate Test A test at a domestic CPEDI3*

Minimum Performance Standards

7.5 **CPEDI3* Para Dressage Qualification criteria for 2025** - as per Article 8404 of the FEI Para Dressage Rules: Athletes are required to qualify for CPEDI3*s, FEI World and Continental Championships, the Paralympic Games, and any other Events where qualification is required. Qualification criteria and Minimum Eligibility Requirements are published on the FEI Website.

- a) To enter a CPEDI 3*, athletes are required to have achieved a minimum score of 60% in a CPEDI 2* or a CPEDI 1* (or above) in any one test once.
- b) Scores obtained in CPEDI 3* and above prior to 2023 will count as well. Such qualification only needs to be obtained once.
- c) Scores achieved in a CPEDI must have been obtained in the 12 months prior to the Athlete's first appearance in a CPEDI 3*.

BD Qualification criteria are set out below

CPEDI3* - Qualification for Athletes and horses that have never competed in a 3* before		
An average score of 67% or above, across a minimum of two scores, in the Grand Prix Test B for their grade, at a BD Gold Para-Equestrian Dressage competition. PYO scores will not count.	&	Competed at one of the following competitions, scoring 65% or above in the Grand Prix Test B of their Grade. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BD Gold Championship Classes (Summer or Winter) - Gold Summer Semi Final
CPEDI3* - Qualification for Athletes with results at a domestic CPEDI 3* since 1 January 2020		
Athletes must have achieved an average, across a minimum of three scores of 67% in the Grand Prix Test B at a domestic CPEDI 3* during the period from 1 January 2019 to 14 days prior to the Definite Entries for the CPEDI. PYO scores will not count.	&	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an average score of 67% or above, across a minimum of three scores, in the Grand Prix Test B for their grade at a BD Gold Para-Equestrian Dressage competition during the 12 months preceding 14 days prior to Definite Entries for the CPEDI.
Qualification for overseas CPEDI3*		
Athlete and Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved the criteria stated in the CPEDI3* in the Grand Prix Test B for their grade. PYO scores will not count.	&	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 67% in the Grand Prix Test B at a domestic CPEDI3*

*Home CPEDI denotes athletes' country of residence.

7.6 In addition, and as a condition of selection, an athlete horse combination will be expected to comply with the following:

- a) Athletes will be expected to comply with any reasonable request for their horse(s) to be examined for fitness/soundness at any time during the selection process by a BD approved veterinary surgeon.
- b) Athletes will be expected to comply with any reasonable request for a medical health examination at any time during the selection process by a BD approved athlete health professional.
- c) The Selectors may, at any time, request an athlete/horse combination to compete in one or more specific competitions. If an athlete agrees to attend the competition but subsequently does not, without a veterinary/medical certificate, this will be the athlete's responsibility and may negatively impact on any future selection consideration. The PD will inform the athlete concerned when this request is made.

8. Selection Criteria

8.1 The Selectors will consider the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion and expert opinion to select athlete/horse combinations in alignment with the Objectives of the Policy (Section 2). They must, at all times, use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.

- a) Achievement of MPS.
- b) The athlete/horse combination's scores during the qualification period. When considering scores the performance trajectory may be taken into consideration.
- c) Fitness and soundness of the horse, including the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement.
- d) The fitness of the athlete, including the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions.
- e) The athlete/horse maintaining fitness and/or performance.
- f) The number of GBR invitations received for each FEI international competition.

8.2 The Selectors will have the right to select athlete/horse combinations for FEI international competitions that may not have achieved MPS if it is in the interest of fulfilling the Objectives of the Policy (in accordance with Section 2).

9. Process and Timelines

9.1 Once they have achieved the MPS, athletes should apply to be added to the international competition plan distribution list which is managed and regularly distributed by the PIO.

9.2 It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the PIO of any competitions they wish to be considered for.

- 9.3 If an athlete decides at any time and for whatever reason that they wish to withdraw from consideration for a specific competition, they must notify the PIO immediately. Once selected, where an athlete subsequently withdraws, they will be required to provide a veterinary/ medical certificate as per the FEI rules and the athlete will be responsible for any withdrawal costs.
- 9.4 The Selectors will meet and/or communicate (in person or remotely) as often as they consider appropriate and necessary for the purpose of selecting para-athlete/horse combinations for CPEDI competitions.
- 9.5 In line with the number of invitations issued by the Organising Committee (“OC”) the Selectors shall select a number of athlete / horse combinations which will make up the definite entries and reserves.
- 9.6 For CPEDI competitions, the Selectors will evaluate athlete/horse combinations asking to be considered for each international competition and, from those, place the selected combinations in alphabetical order of surname and the reserves in rank order, within all five grades. Reserves will move up in the placings as per the rank and grade order in the case of withdrawals and/or additional places.
- 9.7 Athletes able to access private invitations to a CPEDI competition should indicate this to the PIO. Private invitations must be authorised by the Selectors and will only be granted once MPS has been achieved. The Selectors will not prioritise those with private invitations over those selected in terms of number of places allocated to GBR athletes by the OC, except at the discretion of the PD.
- 9.8 Following any Selection meeting the PIO will, via email, confirm the selection outcomes to those on the list for that particular competition. At this point selected athletes will be expected to have committed to accepting any place offered.

10. General

- 10.1 **Cancellation/postponement** – in the event of cancellation of any competition, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement of any competition, 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.
- 10.2 **Force majeure** – in the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF or BD’s control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or withdrawal of WCP funding, the BD Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the BD CEO, PD and PM, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure for selection, which might include withdrawing the team and/or individuals from competition.
- 10.3 **Communication (publication)** – this Selection Policy will be placed on the BD website. Copies are available on request from the PIO at BD.
- 10.4 **Enquiries** – enquiries about this Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the PIO.
- 10.5 **Point of Contact:** The PD is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

11. Appeal Process and Procedures

- 11.1 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 this Policy when making the decision appealed against, or they have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably have reached.
- 11.2 An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the BD CEO, in accordance with the BEF Selection Appeal Rules (the “Appeal Process”), within two working days of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors’ decision.
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeal Process shall continue to run during such discussion. However, in the event that all parties notify the BD CEO (within one working day of receipt of the notice of appeal that such discussion / 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
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