

British Dressage U25 Selection Policy for CDI and CDIO Competitions 2025 - updated 28.01.25

1. Introduction

This is the British Dressage Selection Policy for U25 CDI/CDIOs 2025. The athlete/horse combinations will be selected by the British Dressage ("BD") Selectors (the "Selectors") in accordance with this Policy.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this Selection Policy are to select athlete/horse combinations that will maximise the potential to:

- 2.1 **Primary objective:** optimise preparation for those athlete/horse combinations identified as contenders for the FEI Dressage U25 European Championships 2025 by facilitating access (where possible) to appropriate international competitions.
- 2.2 **Secondary objective:** offer opportunities for progression and development to those athlete/horse combinations considered to have the perceived potential to develop into medal winning contenders at future U25 Championships by facilitating access (where possible) to appropriate international competitions.

3. Confidentiality

- 3.1 It is vital for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the athletes, owners, selectors, staff, and other parties, that there is always 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 a 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. Two voting Selectors will be appointed by the BD Board of Directors and a third voting Selector will automatically be appointed from their position on the BD Board as International Director ("ID").
- 4.3. The Selection Panel so appointed comprises:
 - Chief Selector – Judy Harvey, ID (voting)
 - Selector – Jenny Ward (voting)

- Selector – Anne Keen (voting)
- 4.4. 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 Meeting as the Selectors consider appropriate. 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:
- World Class (“WC”) Dressage Performance Manager (“PM”)
 - WC Programme Performance Support Services Representative(s)
 - A BD appointed veterinary surgeon.

All Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflict of interest as soon as they arise and using the conflict-of-interest declaration form. The BD International Officer (“IO”) will maintain a register and is responsible for informing the British Dressage Chief Executive (“BD CEO”). If a voting Selector has a conflict of interest, then the Selector should step down from discussion involving the conflict.

- 4.5. 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 ID will have the casting and deciding vote. In the event of the ID 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.
- 4.6. 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 always 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 Senior Selection Policy for CDIO and CDI competitions is compiled in consultation with the BD Board of Directors, the BD CEO, the BD 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 to fulfil the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the BD CEO and the ID. The amended Policy, in its entirety, will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the ID) and the section revised will be published on the BD website.

7. Minimum Eligibility Requirement and availability for consideration for selection

- 7.1. All athlete/horse combinations must have indicated their show preferences with the IO to be considered for selection within the timeline set out in Section 7.4.
- 7.2. All athletes are responsible for ensuring their British passport have a minimum of six

- (6) months to run after the date of the competition entered.
- 7.3 The IO 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 license by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
 - d. All athletes will be expected to comply with the FEI and BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, and FEI, British Equestrian Federation (“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 a full member of BD and is not serving any suspension under BD/ BEF rules.
 - f. The athlete is fully registered with the FEI prior to any entry being made into international competition.
 - g. The horse is fully registered with BD and is fully registered with the FEI prior to any entry being made into international competition.
 - h. The owner of the horse is a competing or non-competing member of BD and not serving any suspension under BD/BEF rules.
 - i. 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.
 - j. All Athletes and their support teams 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, and 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 table below. They must be achieved at the level at which the combination wants to compete internationally.

- a. Score(s) must be achieved at either BD National ~~or Winter~~ Championships, BD Premier League competitions, BD High Profile shows (Gold section only) or national shows abroad (CDN).
- b. MPS must be achieved within the 14 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.
- c. British athletes based and competing abroad, are required to send in video footage of their qualifying test via WhatsApp to the BD IO. This should be submitted at least one week prior to the date of definite entries.
- d. Scores and qualifications will be checked by the BD IO.

U25 MINIMUM PERFORMANCE SCORES

To be considered to compete at:	Final score of:	Tour	Competition Level
Foreign or Home* CDI	67%	Middle	Intermediate 11/ Intermediate A or B
Foreign or Home* CDI	67%	U25	Intermediate 11 / Intermediate 11 (U25) / Grand Prix (16 – 25)
Foreign or Home * CDI	67%	Big	Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special, Short Grand Prix
At Big Tour level, when applying for selection consideration, combinations should have achieved MPS in a double bridle and will be asked to confirm this at the time of application.			

*Home denotes country of residence

- e. Athlete/horse combinations who compete in an FEI CDI/CDIO and whose final score is less than at 64% at Middle/U25/Big tour, excluding Freestyle, may requested to achieve MPS. The IO will notify the riders concerned.
- f. Achievement of MPS does not guarantee selection at FEI International competitions.

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

- a. 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. Any reasonable request for a medical health examination at any time during the selection process by a BD approved athlete health professional.
- c. A request by the Selectors 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 ID 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 always use their discretion honestly and with due integrity.

- a. The number of GBR invitations received for each FEI international competition.
- b. At Big Tour level combinations should have achieved MPS in a double bridle and should confirm that this is the case at the time of application. GP (U25) according to the FEI rules.
- c. Achievement of Minimum Performance Standards (MPS).
- d. The athlete/horse combination's scores during the qualification period.
- e. When considering scores the performance trajectory may be taken into consideration.
- f. Fitness and soundness of the horse including the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions due to elimination, withdrawal and/or retirement.
- g. Fitness of the human athlete including the reasons and justification behind any incomplete competitions.
- h. The athlete/horse maintaining fitness and/or performance.

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 IO.
- 9.2 It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the IO 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 IO immediately. Once selected, where an athlete subsequently withdraws, they will be required to provide a veterinary/medical certificate, 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 athlete/horse combinations for U25 CDI/CDIO 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 U25 CDI 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. Reserves will move up in the placings as per the rank order in the case of withdrawals and/or additional places. The Selectors retain the right not to send individuals to a U25 CDI competition.
- 9.7 For U25 CDIO competitions, the Selectors will evaluate the athlete/horse combinations asking to be considered for each Team event and from those may select a maximum of four (4) athletes and four (4) horses or as specified in the competition schedule. In addition, the Selectors will place the remaining combinations in rank order and/or identify specific replacements for named selected combinations. The Selectors retain the right not to send a team to a U25 CDIO competition.
- 9.8 Athletes able to access private invitations to a U25 CDI competition should indicate this to the IO. 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 IO.
- 9.9 Following any Selection meeting the BD IO 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 needs 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 BD's control, e.g., disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the BD Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the BD CEO, ID 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 IO at BD.
- 10.4. **Enquiries** – enquiries about this Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BDIO.

11. Appeals 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 the Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent Selectors could reasonably reach.
- 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 "Appeals 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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