

## **BRITISH EVENTING SELECTION POLICY**

### **FEI EVENTING CCIO4\*-S NATIONS CUP SERIES AND AACHEN CHIO 2025**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The British Eventing teams (the “Team”) for the 2025 CCIO4\*-S Nations Cup Series (the “Series”) will be selected by the Eventing Performance Manager (PM), Eventing High Performance Coach (HPC) and Nations Cup Manager (NCM).
- 1.2. Aachen CHIO is not included in the Nations Cup Series and therefore the Senior Selectors appointed by British Equestrian (BEF), in collaboration with British Eventing (BE), will select for Aachen CHIO using the same criteria and principles as detailed in this policy.
- 1.3. References to the “Team” in this policy refer to the three or four (3/4) athlete/horse combinations that will be selected to compete in the Team at CCIO4\*-NC and may include a travelling reserve.

#### **2. OBJECTIVE**

The objectives of the Selection Policy are:

- 2.1. Primary Objective. Development & Experience:
  - 2.1.1. To raise the standard of those athletes just below the Senior Championship Team and younger athletes, with priority usually given to those on the BEF World Class Programme (WCP).
  - 2.1.2. To use the Series as a performance/personal development opportunity for athletes who do not have or have limited experience of working within a senior team environment.
  - 2.1.3. When possible and if appropriate and available, Senior Championship Team athletes may be selected to act as mentors for less experienced and/or to give horses adequate preparation and training for development.
- 2.2. Secondary Objective. To field a Team, at each leg of the series entered, that achieves credible results for Great Britain. The PM and Nations Cup Manager (NCM) will discuss short- and long-term aims with individual athletes.

#### **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, at all times, a high degree

of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection process. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

#### **4. SELECTION PANEL**

- 4.1. The Selectors are appointed according to their role within the BEF World Class Programme.
- 4.2. The PM will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all Selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise. If a Selector has a conflict of interest during selection, then they must step down from discussion directly involving the conflict.
- 4.3. All Selectors will have equal voting rights in selection decisions. Decisions must be reached by a majority and with no abstentions, unless a Selector is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest. If this is the case, the PM will have the casting vote unless they have had to abstain, in which case the HPC will have the casting vote.

- 4.4. The Nations Cup Selection Panel shall comprise of:

Performance Manager (PM):	Richard Waygood
High Performance Coach (HPC):	Christopher Bartle
Nations Cup Manager (NCM):	Philip Surl

- 4.5. The NCM will be appointed by the Performance Director (PD) in agreement with the PM.
- 4.6. Others from the World Class Programme who may be asked their professional opinion as required include:  
  
World Class Programme Eventing Team Vet (non-voting)  
World Class Programme Chief Medical Officer (non-voting)  
World Class Programme Athlete Health Lead (non-voting)
- 4.7. The PD and BE CEO also have the right to attend all selection meetings, but will not have voting rights.

#### **5. POLICY FORMATION**

- 5.1. The British Equestrian and British Eventing Selection Policy for the Nations Cup Series is compiled in consultation with the BE CEO, PD, PM, HPC, NCM and athletes.

#### **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 PD and the PM. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes (as directed by the Selectors), the PD and PM by email and the section revised will be published on the BE/BEF websites.

## **7. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT & AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION**

7.1. The BE International Secretary will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain, including:

- 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, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 119 at the time of application. Athletes must hold a valid UK passport that does not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the CICO4\*.
- b. 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, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Articles 113 and 117.
- c. The athlete is eligible under any anti-doping code, i.e. not serving a competition ban as a result of a proven doping or controlled medication violation, or other breach of ethical conduct and is not in receipt of a funding ban or suspension from UK Sport.
- d. The athlete is a full and active member of British Eventing (BE) and not serving any suspensions under BE, BEF or FEI rules.
- e. The horse is fully registered with BE and the FEI for 2025.
- f. All athletes will be expected to comply with reasonable requests intended to support optimal performance preparation for themselves and their horses, in particular but not limited to, those specifically aligned to the anticipated environmental conditions and competition format.
- g. Combinations must be eligible according to the minimum eligibility criteria (MER) as defined in the FEI Regulations for the forthcoming CICO4\* and that the horse(s) available for selection have correct ownership.

7.2. In addition, as a condition of selection for a Nations Cup Team:

- a. Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes' "home teams" should behave at all times in a manner that does not potentially negatively affect performance or bring into disrepute the sport, BEF, WCP or BE, and at all times behave in accordance with the British Equestrian Team Charter and the BE Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in any selection decisions regarding an athlete being impacted negatively or, if already selected, could result in de-selection.

## **8. QUALIFICATION PERIOD**

8.1. The qualification period for horses and athletes will be in accordance with FEI regulations, which are available at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## **9. TEAM SIZE**

- 9.1. A Team will consist of three or four (3/4) athlete/horse combinations, who will compete for the Team and individual placings.

## **10. SELECTION CRITERIA**

10.1. The Selectors will take into consideration the criteria set out below and use their absolute discretion to select combinations onto the Team. They must, at all times, use their discretion honestly and with due integrity to achieve the Objectives of this Policy. The criteria will be considered in no particular order and with no particular weighting.

- 10.1.1. The athlete's Team experience and perceived likelihood of being selected for a Senior Championship Team in the future.
- 10.1.2. The results of the athlete/horse combination will be considered in selection, alongside the selectors expert judgement on the potential of a combination to achieve the objectives of this policy. Due regard will be given when considering:
- a. past and present results from CCI3\*, CCI4\* and CCI5\* events, including CCI-L and CCI-S level, and Advanced national competitions
  - b. the status of the judges and the competition
  - c. the difficulty of the cross-country and jumping courses
  - d. the terrain
  - e. the competitiveness of the starters
  - f. the rate of progress of the combination.
- 10.1.3. Fitness and soundness of the horse – the advice of the World Class Programme's Eventing Team Vet or another appointed veterinary surgeon may be sought. Athletes should notify the Eventing Team Vet of any change in their horse's health status or veterinary management immediately.
- 10.1.4. Fitness of the athlete – the advice of the World Class Programme's Chief Medical Officer or Athlete Health Lead may be sought.
- 10.1.5. Willingness of the athlete or his/her accredited owners, coaches, sport science and medicine staff, grooms or others that may be assisting the athlete during the Nations Cup to contribute to the Objectives of the Selection Policy and the World Class Programme and British Equestrian Team Charter.
- 10.1.6. Demonstration of behaviour that indicates a commitment to a positive team environment both on and off the field of play.
- 10.1.7. The athlete's results on other horses at CCI3\*, CCI4\* or CCI5\* level.

## **11. SELECTION PROCESS**

- 11.1. The Selectors will hold selection meetings frequently enough to allow athletes enough notification for each leg in the Series.
- 11.2. If requested, the PM will be briefed by the World Class Programme's Chief Medical Officer or Athlete Health Lead and Eventing Team Vet as to an athlete's or horse's fitness for selection. This information will be delivered in summary format and not include confidential detail.
- 11.3. As part of the selection process, the advice from the World Class Programme's Eventing Team Vet, and other World Class Programme veterinary surgeons if so required, will be taken into consideration. There may be an official inspection, which all horses must attend and where a blood test may be taken for pre-Nations Cup testing and any samples taken may be screened for prohibited substances. Alternatively, the official inspections may take place at athletes' yards or at a competition. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own veterinary surgeon and the Eventing Team Vet.
- 11.4. Fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential will be taken into consideration by the NCM when selecting the Team and reserves. Athletes may be asked to undergo a fitness assessment by the World Class Programme's Athlete Health Lead.
- 11.5. Announcement of the team for the CCI04\*-s Nations Cup series and for each competition:
  - 11.5.1. Selection decisions will be communicated by the PM/NCMs.
  - 11.5.2. The NCM will agree a programme for when each Team will be selected and announced.

## **12. POST SELECTION**

- 12.1. Running order: The NCM, in consultation with the PM, will decide the Team running order. The NCM will inform athletes. The NCM may make amendments to the Team running order in consultation with the PM (if available) and if deemed necessary to do so for any reason
- 12.2. Maintaining form: Athletes should note that Selection decisions are subject to the athlete/horse retaining fitness/performance requirements (see Substitution below). Once an athlete/horse combination has been selected, they must maintain their form and fitness in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the NCM. Failure to follow this programme or to discuss amendments to the programme with the NCM could lead to the athlete/horse combination being substituted.
- 12.3. Substitution (Team): Substitution of a Team member may occur at any time between the announcement of the Team and the declaration of the Team as stated in each Schedule. The final decision on whether to substitute, whatever the reasoning, will be made by the NCM in consultation with the PM and HPC if it is deemed appropriate or necessary to do so for any reason that may impact on the Objectives of the Policy. This is a condition of selection by the athletes and owners, and this decision will be final and non-contestable.

For clarity, the reason for a substitution will normally be and not limited to;

- a. An athlete being unfit to compete due to injury or illness, or a strong veterinary case for substitution.
  - b. The performance of the athlete/horse combination has declined to such an extent that the objectives of the policy would be at risk.
  - c. A breach of anti-doping (human or equine) or behaviour/conduct rules.
- 12.4. In the case of an athlete being considered medically unfit to compete, the decision will be made by the NCM and PM following an examination by a World Class Programme-approved doctor, subject to time allowing. This may involve the athlete being asked to ride certain dressage movements or jump selected fences on their Team horse. Being unfit to compete is best described as “not being able to ride their horse in a manner which allows the athlete to produce the standard of performance at which they were selected”.
- 12.5. In the case of a horse being considered unfit due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, this decision will be made by the NCM and PM following an examination by the World Class Programme-approved veterinarian and, time allowing, in consultation with the Chairman of Selectors (if available).

### **13. GENERAL**

- 13.1. Discretion: In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors and NCM will be entitled within the provisions of this Policy to exercise their discretion to achieve the objective where it is reasonable to do so.
- 13.2. Clean sport: Selection is subject to compliance with BEF equine anti-doping and controlled medication rules (BEFAR) and FEI and World Anti-doping Association (WADA) rules on doping and medication control for human and equine.
- 13.3. Cancellation/postponement: In the event of cancellation, the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement, a situation might arise where a new and/or different Team or individuals need to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.
- 13.4. Exceptional circumstances: In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the BEF's or BE's control, such as disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, or reduction of World Class Programme funding, the British Eventing Board reserves the right to make the decision, following consultation with the PD and Chief Executive of the BEF, either to change the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from the Series.

### **14. COMMUNICATION**

- 14.1. Publication/circulation: The Selection Policy will be placed on the BE Website.
- 14.2. Enquiries: Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or by telephone to the BE office or the PM.

14.3. Points of contact: The NCM is the key point of contact relating to this Selection Policy.

## **15. APPEALS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

15.1. 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 or have made a decision that no rational body of competent selectors could reasonably reach. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to both the Chief Executive Officer of BE and to the BEF in accordance with the BEF Appeal Rules (the “Appeal Process”) within 48 hours of the relevant athlete being informed of the Selectors’ decision.

The BEF Appeal Process is available to view here: [www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook](http://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/about-us/rulebook). Copies can also be obtained from the BEF office.

The Chief Executive Officer of BE 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 a facilitated mediation. For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeal Process shall continue to run during the course of such discussion. However, in the event that both parties notify the BEF that such discussion/mediation has resolved the appeal within 48 hours of receipt of the notice of appeal, the Appeal Process shall be stayed.