

BRITISH REINING TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Objective of Selection Policy

The main aim is to choose the team and provide the preparation that will achieve the best possible results for Great Britain at the FEI European Championships, whilst developing a Team for World Equestrian Games 2010. In addition, talented combinations will be identified and wherever possible given the opportunities to progress particularly through competing internationally.

The specific aim of the Selection Policy is:-

- i. To select a Team to deliver the best possible results for Great Britain at the FEI European Championships.
- ii. To build a Team capable of achieving medal positions at the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

Selection Panel

All selectors, including the Chairman will be appointed by the British Reining Council.

The Chair of Selectors will be a member from British Reining Council plus two further selectors from general membership as invited by British Reining Council. Selectors will be appointed at the AGM and details published on the BR website, in the Rundown and newsletter. All Selectors must be members of good standing, who must have the knowledge and experience required to effectively select championship teams and will be as free from all vested interests/conflicts of interest as possible. A register of Declarations of Interest will be maintained and available for inspection.

The Chef d'Equipe (CE) will attend all selection meetings to inform, advise and assist the selection panel. He will not have a vote although he will have the power to veto the selection panel's decision. This will safeguard the close relationship between the CE and the riders. The Chairman of Selectors and the two other Selectors will have equal voting rights. Decisions are to be unanimous and supported by all Selectors.

Selection Panel:

Chair of Selectors – British Reining Council Member. Responsible for communicating to the BR Council all matters relating to International Teams.

Selector – BR member

Selector – BR member

Others in attendance as required – Coach, Vet

Chef d'Equipe will be entitled to attend selection meetings.

Selection Policy

Background

The British Reining Selection Policy is worked out in agreement and consultation with the British Reining Council, Selectors, riders and Chef d'Equipe.

Eligibility/Availability for Consideration

The Selection Panel will make sure that all riders available for selection have British citizenship and have been granted a license by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in International Events according to Article 134 of the FEI Regulations, that the horses available for selection have correct ownership and all correct documentation and that neither horses nor riders are for any reason not allowed to take part under FEI, BEF or BR rules.

Qualification Period

The qualification period for submission of scores for consideration for selection and eligibility to compete in a Championship will be determined by the Selection Panel but a period of between 6 – 9 months prior to the event would be recommended. The Qualification Period will be published on the BR website, in The Rundown and via the BR Newsletter.

Confidentiality

It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and those involved in its application both as riders, owners, selectors or other officials, that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.

Process of Selection

A position on the Team is to be considered a privilege and not a right. Above all, selection will be largely based on the results achieved by riders at stipulated types of competition. However, one outstanding result will not lead to automatic selection.

All riders wishing to be considered for Team selection should complete and return the Application Form, together with a registration fee of £150 to the Chairman of Selectors by the given deadline, together with the signed Team Agreement. The deadline will be announced via the British Reining website and by mail to all members.

Selection will be based on applicants submitting their 5 best scores during the Qualifying Period. Riders wishing to be considered for selection should submit to the Chair of Selectors their 5 best scores (score sheets must be signed by the Show Secretary) achieved during the Qualifying Period. The Selectors will use these scores to assist them during the

Selection process. If a rider is unable to achieve 5 scores, in the necessary competitions, within the Qualifying Period, they must inform the Chair of Selectors in writing stating their reasons..

Only scores from British Reining, NRHA or CRI/CRIO double-judged classes at Open or Non-Pro level will be acceptable.

Applicants must submit at least 1 scores from either a CRI or CRIO event.

The Selectors would expect 2 scores to be over 70 in order for the rider / horse to be eligible for selection.

The remaining 3 scores will be averaged and the Selectors would expect the average to be over 71.

In exceptional circumstances, however, the requirement for 5 scores (as stated above) may be waived or modified in order to increase the likelihood of achieving the two stated Objectives of the Selection Policy.

The Team will be selected from the Long List by the Selection Panel with the emphasis being on scores. In the event of a tie, priority will be given to the CRI scores and the rider with most international experience as judged by the Selection Panel. A horse/rider's wins and placings, the competitiveness of the starters they have competed against, the standing of the judges who have marked them, the soundness of the horse, the ability of the rider to perform under pressure and contribute to the development of a positive team atmosphere and any other criteria that will serve in the Team's best interest for achieving as good a result as possible will be taken into consideration.

An applicant may submit scores with different horses, but each horse/rider combination requires a separate Application Form and registration fee.

Selection Criteria for Team and Order

Team Running Order. The Selectors in conjunction with the CE will decide the team running order and individual riders and the CE will inform riders and owners accordingly. The CE may make amendments to the Team running order in consultation with the Chair of Selectors, if available.

Veterinary. As part of the selection process the advice of a Team approved Veterinary Officer will be taken into consideration. There will be an official inspection which all horses must attend and where blood tests may be taken. If a horse is based abroad then an inspection will be arranged by the CE.

Weighting

International Shows. Most weight will be given to results at International shows with FEI International Official Judges.

Progress

The CE will continually discuss and update riders, owners and trainers of plans and individual riders' and horses' progress.

Modifications/Exceptional Circumstances

The right is reserved that in exceptional circumstances such as injury or illness the Selection Policy can be waived or modified in order to enhance the likelihood of achieving the stated goals. This will be done by the CE and Selectors as far in advance of the event as is practicable. Where there is a chance that this situation may occur the issue will be kept confidential amongst the CE and Chair of Selectors until such time as a decision is made. If the decision is made to change a Team member for a reserve then this issue must be handled in a very sensitive and sympathetic manner.

Substitution

Chefs d'Equipe must declare the members of teams and the names of the individual competitors and their horses after the Veterinary Inspection and no later than one hour before the draw. In the event of an accident or illness of a competitor and/or horse declared as a starter, this competitor and/or horse may, up to one hour before the start of a competition and on production of a certificate from a doctor and/or FEI veterinary delegate, after approval of the ground jury, be replaced by a reserve rider/horse combination (team competition) or another competitor and/or another horse formally entered (individual competition). The competitor or horse withdrawn may not then start either as a member of a team or as an individual. For substitutions of riders and horse combinations before the horse inspection see FEI General Regulations ART.126.

Selection Timetable

Dates for selection and announcement of squad will vary from year to year depending on what time of year the Championships are being held, but will be announced as early as possible each year and be informed to all parties concerned.

Changes in Policy

The Selectors 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.

Weather

It is presumed that the weather conditions likely at the Championships have been considered for selection. However, should there be drastic change for some reason there might be cause for alterations to be made to the squad in which case everyone concerned will be notified and the explanation given as soon as convenient.

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 squad needs to be selected in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

Force Majeure

In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond British Reining Council's control, (eg disease outbreak in horses or humans, collages of available funding, war or terrorism) the British Reining Council reserves the right to make changes to the Selection Policy and representation which could involve withdrawing the British team.

Veterinary

Team riders must notify the CE and the Team Veterinarian (if one appointed) of any change in the horse's health status or veterinary management immediately.

Discretion

The Selectors are entitled within this selection policy to use their discretion to select combinations onto Teams provided that they can demonstrate that any discretion used was arrived at through a process of integrity where the information used and procedures taken were perfectly reasonable and justifiable. Any such discretion will be fully documented.

Code of Conduct/Team Agreement

When selecting the Team the CE and Selectors will take into consideration, not just the statistical results but also the willingness of the rider to co-operate with the development of excellence in Reining and maintenance and development of the reputation of the team.

Each International Team rider will need to sign the Team member agreement before they are to compete. Selection is subject to compliance with British Reining, BEF, FEI Rules on doping for human and doping and medication control for equine.

Communication

Consultation

The British Reining Selection Policy is formulated in agreement and consultation with the British Reining Council, Riders and CE.

Publication/Circulation

The Selection Policy will be placed on the BR website and copies will also be available on request from the British Reining office.

Enquiries

Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or on the telephone to the British Reining office, Chair of Selectors and CE.

Changes to Selection Policy

Changes will be communicated in writing as above, in the British Reining E-zine, The Rundown, on the BR/BEF website and at any meetings organised for this purpose.

Points of Contact

The key points of contact relating to the Selection Policy are: Chair of Selectors and CE.

Financial Circumstances

Selection will be made on merit as laid down above. A rider's financial circumstances will not influence selection. Any funding made available for International team competitions will be used equally for the benefit of the whole Team and not individual members.

Appeals Process and Procedures

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 to the British Reining Chairman. If the Chairman is not able to satisfy the appellant's concerns the appeal will be forwarded to the BEF. The processes and procedures of the BEF Appeals process are set out in the BEF Rule Book.