



## Criteria for the 2020 High Performance Squads for the Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Programme

### 1. Nature of the Programme

The purpose of this programme is to provide Ireland's Dressage and Para-Dressage athletes with the best preparation within the allocated resources to represent Team Ireland at CDI, CDIO, CPEDI and European, World and Olympic Championship level. This programme aims to make the best athletes better, develop Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance in Ireland. As a member of the Senior Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Programme (HPP) the athlete will receive guidance regarding their specific individual programmes, which incorporates a team focus, coordinated by the Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Committee and Horse Sport Ireland. This programme aims to improve the performance of the athlete and horse, as a combination, with the ultimate goal of securing podium finishes. Where a combination is selected for the Senior Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Programme, the combination will be named on the relevant HP Squad. The criteria below sets out the requirements in order to be included on the following squads

- **2020 HP Dressage and Para- Dressage Squad**
- **2020 Development Squad**

### 2. 2020 Dressage and Para-Dressage HP Squads

**Each Athlete/Horse combination ("the combination") is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the 2020 HP Squad**

- Members of this squad are, in principle, combinations who are established at Grand Prix level and are seeking selection to the Irish Team for the next Major Championship (i.e.) Olympic or World Equestrian Games
- The results by the horse and athlete combination at events in 2018 and 2019 with emphasis on Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special classes followed by consideration of those in the Kur.
- For Para-Athletes, the results by the horse and athlete combination at shows in 2018 and 2019 with emphasis on Team and Individual events followed by consideration of those in the Kur.
- In principle, the Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Committee will apply the following performance criteria when selecting combinations for the **2020 HP Squads**; Combinations should be achieving consistent **average scores 66% or above** with an increasing trend at Grand Prix level at CDI3\* and above, CPEDI2\* and 3\*, CDI-W's and CDIO's. For both categories of athlete, further consideration will be given to:

- (a) Consistency of scores over 66%;
- (b) The star level of the shows and the star level of the panel of judges;

- (c) The trend in average GP and GPS scores in 2018 and 2019;
  - (d) The overall quality of the start list of events (determined by FEI rankings of the other athletes and their current form);
  - (e) Commitment to the HSI High Performance Dressage and Para-Dressage Programme.
- The purpose of the squad is to include the combinations that are most likely to represent Ireland at the European Championships 2019 and that have demonstrated an ability to improve, from participating in a High-Performance Programme and be committed to;
    - (a) Success individually and as a Team Ireland Member;
    - (b) Personal bests at targeted competitions;
    - (c) Taking ownership of their performances
    - (d) Being willing to make change and develop;
    - (e) Commitment to the team and to drive best team culture
    - (f) Have personal coaches, individual performance plans, personal fitness structures and horse management programmes in place;
    - (g) Ownership of the horse must be secured and they must be available to compete for Team Ireland.
  - The High-Performance Committee will select athletes to form the 2020 HP Squad

#### **(b) 2020 Development Squad**

**Each Athlete/Horse combination (“the combination”) is required to meet the following criteria to be considered for inclusion on the 2020 development squad.**

- Athletes who are consistently campaigning at a competitive national level, (Small Tour or above/ the appropriate Para level), scoring regularly **more than 63%** and demonstrating an ability riding under pressure of competition.
- The purpose of the squad is to select the combinations that are developing and have demonstrated an ability to improve and are committed.
- The High-Performance Committee will select athletes for the 2020 Development Squad.

### **3. General Criteria**

- The Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Committee are the sole selectors of combinations based on results. The Dressage and Para-Dressage HPC reserves the right to remove a combination from any of the squads listed above, if the combination is deemed to have made insufficient progress or has lost competitive form.
- The squad listings will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.
- It must be clear that the combination is open to improvement and has demonstrated the ability to improve from training, and support of the HPC, where available.
- Combinations that are not currently listed on any of the squads may be invited to join at any time. This invitation will be wholly dependent on results, attention to detail, performance planning, team player orientation and the ability to perform under pressure. Such combinations will be considered based on their results in 2018 and 2019. The HPC reserves the right to add additional combinations at any time.
- Any Dressage/Para-Dressage Athlete is free to discuss with the HP Dressage and Para Dressage Coordinator Claire Sedgeman the requirements which they need to achieve to be considered for inclusion on any of the listed squads.
- For all listed squads, meeting these criteria is not a guarantee of selection onto any other squad or team.

- Horses must be sound and fit to compete to the satisfaction of the HSI Team Vet or his designate. Athletes and owners must be prepared to submit their horses for fitness assessments by the HSI Team Vet or his designate and to submit a full veterinary history, as requested.
- Athletes are required to inform the HPC and HSI Team Vet of any injury or unsoundness of a listed squad horse immediately. Non-disclosure of veterinary matters may warrant removal from the squad with immediate effect. The HPC in consultation with the HSI Team Vet may request that the squad horse be presented for veterinary assessment, at the cost of the athlete. In the event that the Team Vet is of the opinion that the squad horse requires a rehabilitation period that is longer than 8 weeks, the HPC reserves the right to remove the athlete combination from the squad. The HPC decision is final.
- Squad athletes agree that he/she will not comment publicly on any issue or concern he/she may have unless or until it is resolved to the satisfaction of both the athlete and HSI.
- Subject to the above clause, squad athletes acknowledge and agree that despite anything else in this criteria, squad athletes will not make or provide adverse public comment on social media, national print or any other public forum, on any HSI matter related to the High Performance Dressage and Para-Dressage Programme and/or team to which he/she has been selected, including, but not only, any member of it, selection to it or performance of it. 'Adverse' in this clause means any comment which can be seen to be disparaging of, detrimental or prejudicial to, the Team, the HPC and Horse Sport Ireland. Further, Athletes are bound by the Horse Sport Ireland Social Media Policy, appended at Schedule 1.
- Athletes must hold or be entitled to Irish Citizenship.
- Any change in the squad selection procedure[s] caused by a change in the FEI Rules will be immediately distributed to the relevant athletes. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to HSI. However, selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.
- As such, the criteria can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. In the event, that Horse Sport Ireland is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in the FEI guidelines; to give effect to the policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight, or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland shall not be responsible, or liable in any way, to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

#### **4. Squad Support**

- The Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Committee will support members of the listed squads in the form of interval meetings to identify how each Athlete can improve or enhance their respective performance[s].
- Athletes must be prepared to work within the Dressage and Para-Dressage High Performance Programme structure and will be required to submit "training and competition plans" to the High Performance Committee, at the time of initial selection to the programme, and subsequently as requested during the year, by the HPC.
- Once selected for the 2020 Squads athletes may be required to present their horses for a veterinary examination at the request of the HPC. Athletes are requested to keep a veterinary log book of their respective squad horses for inspection at any time by the HSI Team Vet or his designate.
- The HPC reserves the right to:
  - (a) Request all veterinary records pertaining to any squad horse;
  - (b) Require a horse to undergo a further veterinary assessment at any time

- (c) Remove the combination from any of the 2020 squads upon veterinary advice, if the HPC deems appropriate

**Any questions or queries about this programme can be directed to the Dressage and Para-Dressage Administrator, Claire Sedgeman – [dressage@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:dressage@horsesportireland.ie)**