

SELECTION POLICY 2018 WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES - ENDURANCE

This selection policy ('the policy') covers the discipline of Endurance.

1. OBJECTIVE

To select athletes and horses who are able to achieve the best possible results at the 2018 World Equestrian Games. The term 'best possible result' encompasses both a team and an individual result.

2. PROCESS OF SELECTION

Subject to the terms of this policy and any additional FEI qualification/entry requirements:

- 2.1 On or before **31st December 2018**, the initial process will commence with the Endurance Selection Panel (**the 'ESP'**) selecting a long list of horses and athletes from which the 2018 World Equestrian Games Endurance Team will be primarily selected.
- 2.2 On or before **31st March 2018**, the ESP will select a **Short List** of horse and rider combinations primarily, but not exclusively, from the Long List. The Short List will consist of the horse and rider combinations to be nominated to the FEI as Nominated Entries.
- 2.3 On or before **1st July 2018**, the ESP will select horse and rider combinations to be "**the WEG Team**" which may include up to one (1) travelling reserve combination. The Nominated reserve can be named by the ESP in conjunction with the HPD at any time following the announcement of the selected team of five combinations, but no later than the WEG team declaration (Definite entries) as outlined in the WEG schedule.
- 2.4 Athletes who have fulfilled all selection criteria as per this document may be eligible for the Short List or WEG team selection.
- 2.5 This policy may be varied, amended or supplemented by EA from time to time, including where matters arise for which there is no explicit provision in the criteria. Any variation, amendment or supplement, must be in writing. EA will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to all persons affected by any variation, amendment or supplement to the Policy.

3. SUBSTITUTION

- 3.1 Following selection of the WEG Short List/Team, if:
 - 3.1.1 In the opinion of the ESP (in consultation with the High Performance Director, Team Vet and the Chef d'Equipe), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the WEG Team, the loss of form must be assessed to be likely to be ongoing and affect performance at WEG; or
 - 3.1.2 A member of the WEG Team contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or
 - 3.1.3 A member of the WEG Team does not meet the requirements outlined in the athlete's agreement;

that member of the WEG Team may be replaced by another combination/reserve meeting the requirements for selection.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION FOR THE LONG & SHORT LISTS

4.1 For **Athletes** to be eligible for selection, all athletes must:

- 4.1.1 Be current members of EA;
- 4.1.2 Be eligible to compete for Australia as per FEI regulations Art. 119;
- 4.1.3 attend and participate in training clinics and camps as notified in writing, unless a written exemption has been granted by EA or the Chef d'Equipe, in response to a timely written request from the athlete for an exemption;
- 4.1.4 undertake the training and competition program recommended by the HPD after consultation with the athlete;
- 4.1.5 make their horse(s) available for examination at a time and location reasonably requested by the Team Vet and accept and implement the reasonable recommendations of the Team Vet; this may also be in consultation with the athlete's own vet;
- 4.1.6 Provide accurate and up-to-date whereabouts information on a regular basis to the EA;
- 4.1.7 Satisfy any additional preconditions advised in writing to the athlete by EA prior to or at the time of selection for WEG Nominated Entries;
- 4.1.8 Demonstrate to the satisfaction of EA that they are not suffering any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing in WEG to the highest possible standard;
- 4.1.9 Have acted and at all times act in such a manner so as to not bring the athlete, the discipline of Endurance or EA into public disrepute or censure; and
- 4.1.10 Have signed the EA National Squad athlete agreement.

4.2 For **Horses** to be eligible for selection to WEG Nominated Entries, all horses must:

- 4.2.1 be registered with EA or should the horse be permanently domiciled in a country other than Australia, a current FEI passport administered by either EA or the rider's host country;
- 4.2.2 have passed a veterinary examination to the satisfaction of the Team Vet;¹

¹ The timing and form of each horse's veterinary examination will be at the sole discretion of the Team Vet

² The term 'owner' refers to a person or persons registered as the official horse owner with the EA State Branch or the equivalent overseas NF. Where there are multiple owners, a representative nominated in writing to EA by the owners may act on behalf of all the owners, including the signing of the Horse Owner Agreement. It is the 'primary' owner registered

4.2.3 have a current FEI passport

4.3 For **Owners** - in order for the horse and athlete combination to be selected for WEG Nominated Entries, EA must have received from the owner(s) of the nominated horse a signed copy of the 2018 EA Team Horse Owner Agreement. ²

5. APPEALS

5.1 Appeals concerning non-selection of athletes and horses for the WEG Team will be heard by an EA Appeal Tribunal in accordance with the EA Appeal By-Laws.

5.2 There will be one level of appeal only with the sole grounds for an Appeal being that this Selection Policy was not properly followed and/or implemented.

5.3 Only athletes may appeal their non-selection. Owners cannot appeal any decision. An athlete must lodge their notice of intention to appeal in writing with the HPD of EA within three (3) working days from the date of the announcement of the WEG Team.

5.4 It shall be a condition of selection for the WEG Short List that each Athlete expressly agrees to and accepts the provisions of this clause 5 including, without limitation, clause 5.1.

6. NOMINATION CRITERIA

The nomination criteria combines the FEI qualification requirements, the Competition Criteria and the General criteria.

6.1 FEI Qualification Process for WEG 2018 – Endurance

http://inside.fei.org/system/files/WEG2018_Qualification%20Criteria_17Oct2017.pdf

Qualification period: Start: 12 September 2016

End: 13 July 2018

6.2 General Criteria

Subject to the terms of this policy, the ESP will select athlete and horse combinations according to the selection criteria. The ESP will nominate the WEG Endurance Team based on the following criteria:

1. The combinations that the ESP believe have the ability to contribute positively to the 2018 WEG Endurance Team, achieving the best possible result at the 2018 WEG demonstrated by the following:
 - a) Ability and experience of the combinations to compete successfully at high level of international competition, including past international and national performances;
 - b) Ability of the Athlete to prepare their horse at peak condition for a major campaign

with the EA State Branch, who has the onus to inform EA of any separate contracts that may impact on the EA Horse Owner Agreement prior to, during or following the 2018 World Equestrian Games

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- c) Ability of the Athlete to contribute to a positive Team environment
 - d) The age, soundness and fitness of the horse
 - e) Ability, or potential ability, of the combination to perform under the stress and pressure of the WEG.
 - f) Any other factors the ESP in its sole discretion consider relevant in the circumstances
 - g) Discretionary combinations do not necessarily have to be nominated on the Long or Short List to be eligible for discretionary selection. However, the combination must have attained a Certificate of Capability for the WEG in accordance with FEI rules.
2. Consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute toward a team score may be considered. If in the opinion of the ESP a consistent combination will contribute towards an effective team score, this combination may be nominated ahead of another combination that has performed well under the competition criteria, but which in the opinion of the ESP, has the potential to be inconsistent.
 3. Where the aspect of ‘current form’ is to be considered, performances at recent events may be taken into account in comparison with performances achieved earlier. For the purpose of the selection criteria, ‘recent’ will generally relate to performances in **2016-2018**.
 4. Placings at all International competitions within the selection period **from September 2016** to the final selection date will be considered but do not automatically position one athlete above another in terms of selection.
 5. An athlete and horse combination maintaining a consistent standard during the selection period may be selected ahead of a combination that may have achieved higher scores, but whose performances are less consistent.
 6. The ESP in their discretion may take into consideration the ability of an athlete to perform at Major Championships or Events or past performances at such events.
 7. The age, soundness and fitness of the horse will be taken into consideration.
 8. It is recognised that competitiveness at endurance requires an effective team of athlete and their groom/s. The athlete is responsible for the behaviour of each of their nominated groom/s. Selection of the athlete will take into consideration the athlete’s and each of their grooms’ ability and willingness to:
 - a. at all times to work cooperatively, demonstrate respect and behave appropriately; and
 - b. commit to their best possible performance at WEC and best possible outcome for Australia.

9. In addition to the above criteria, the following shall be included in ranking applicants for selection:
- a. Higher selection ranking will be given to those riders who are more experienced with a proven competitive riding record. Ranking will be prioritised for successful completion of CEI3*, CEI2*, CEN160 km VGIH, CEN 120 km Vet Gate into Hold (VGIH) rides.
 - b. Higher selection ranking will be given to those who successfully complete their rides in the top 3 places and for successful rides at speeds > 15 kph, and more for >18 kph.
 - c. It is expected that to be selected a senior rider will have successfully completed at least 4 CEI2* or CEN 120 km VGIH rides, and at least 3 CEI3* or CEN 160 km VGIH ride, in the top 10% of completions in the appropriate division in those rides, and that at least one of these rides will have been a CEI3* at ≥ 15 kph.
 - d. Ranking points will be reduced for eliminations at any endurance rides in the preceding 24 months.
 - e. Higher selection ranking will be given to horses which have successfully completed high level, fast rides. Ranking will be prioritised for successful completion of CEI3*, CEI2*, CEN160 km VGIH, CEN 120 km Vet Gate into Hold (VGIH) rides. Higher selection ranking will be given for successful rides at speeds > 15 kph, and more for >18 kph.
 - f. It is expected that to be selected a horse will have successfully completed at least 4 CEI2* or CEN 120 km VGIH rides and at least 2 CEI3* or CEN 160 km VGIH rides. Preference will be given to horses achieving top 10% of completions in the appropriate division in those rides, in the 24 months preceding selection, and that at least one of these rides will have been a CEI3* at ≥ 15 kph.
 - g. Fast recovery times at vet gates will also be considered in the horse's overall performance
 - h. Ranking points will be reduced for eliminations at any Endurance riders in the preceding 24 months.

6.3 Competition Criteria

To be eligible for consideration for selection, athlete and horse combinations are to have achieved the competition criteria as follows:

- 6.3.1 Have successfully qualified as per 6.1 (above) the FEI Qualifications Procedure for 2018 WEG Senior Endurance Championships;
- 6.3.2 Have further experience at FEI/VGIH competitions additional to the qualifying procedures.

7. DISCRETIONARY CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Extraordinary Factors

In considering the performances of athletes and horses at events, training camps or other activities required under this policy, the Selection Panel may in their discretion give weight to extraordinary factors applying to that athlete and/or horse.

- 7.1.1 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy must advise the High Performance Director and relevant National Performance Director of this fact, and the reasons, in writing, before the commencement of the activity or as soon as practicable.
- 7.1.2 In the case of injury or illness, the athlete may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors nominated by EA.
- 7.1.3 In the case of illness or soundness problems of the horse, the horse will be required to undergo a veterinary examination by the National Team Vet or by a vet nominated by the Team Vet.
- 7.1.4 In the case of bereavement, equipment failure, travel delays, quarantine factors or other extraordinary factors, the Selection Panel will make a decision on an individual basis.

7.2 Additions to the WEG Long List

The ESP may, in its absolute discretion, add a horse and athlete combination to the WEG Long List at any stage subject to the combination satisfying the relevant FEI qualification criteria and prior to close of Nominated Entries.

7.3 Removal from a List

Athletes who:

- 7.3.1 by reason of illness, injury or soundness problems to either their horse or themselves are unable to perform to the required standard as determined by the Selection Panel (after having received advice from a medical practitioner or the Team Vet); or
- 7.3.2 contravene the FEI or EA Codes of Conduct, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or
- 7.3.3 fail to comply with the terms of their Athletes agreement; or
- 7.3.3 do not meet any other stated requirement communicated to them in writing by EA,

may be removed from the WEG Long or Short List. Removal from the WEG Long or Short List by the EA Selection Panel may only be with the prior written approval of the HPD of EA.

7.4 Performance indicators

The objective of this policy is to select horse and athlete combinations that the ESP believes will achieve the best possible result at the 2018 WEG Senior Endurance Championships. The term ‘best possible result’ covers both an individual and a team result, but must be based on the realistic expectation that a team has the ability to finish in Top Five placings, and individuals in the Top Ten placing.

If the ESP do not expect this to be achievable, they may choose not to select a team to represent Australia in the Endurance Team competitions.

If there are not a sufficient number of combinations to constitute a team meeting the selection criteria to the satisfaction of the ESP, then individual combinations may be nominated for the 2018 WEG Senior Endurance Championships.

8. KEY DATES

DATE (on or before)	EVENT
31 st December 2017	Long List announced
31 st March 2018	Short List announced
Date TBC	WEG Nominated Entries
1st July 2018	WEG Team announced
3 rd September 2018	WEG Definite Entries

Once announced, Long Listed athletes are expected to provide the following information to the ESP and EA:

- Name and details of horse/s nominated, including ride history, any soundness, any history of metabolic or other issues. Please provide regular updates on horse performance, training, veterinary issues and, vaccinations.
- Athlete’s ride history
- Name and details of at least 2 proposed grooms
- Any disciplinary matters commenced in respect of the athlete or any of their nominated grooms relating to Endurance
- Any other information the athlete considers relevant to assist in selection process (e.g. personal fitness)
- At least one month in advance notice to ESP, on competitions planned for the month (including horse details, location, grooms in attendance).
- Report on competition of the athlete or any of her/his nominated horses as soon as possible afterward (copy of the logbook page preferred).