

## SELECTION POLICY 2018 WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES PARA EQUESTRIAN

This selection policy ('the policy') covers the discipline of Para Equestrian.

### 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.

Further to this, Equestrian Australia's High Performance department are committed to funding **only** genuine medal contention combinations to attend the World Equestrian Games. Should there be (in the Para-Equestrian Selection Panel and Para Equestrian Performance Manager's opinion) no genuine medal contenders, or numbers less than required to participate as a team, there may be opportunities for Athletes to self-fund their attendance and participation. The invitation/s for this/these position/s will be at the sole discretion of the PESP.

### 2. PROCESS OF SELECTION

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

- 2.1 On or before 19 June 2018 the Para Equestrian Selection Panel ('the PESP') will select up to eight (8) horse and rider combinations to be nominated to the Long List (the '**WEG Nominated Entries**') may be derived from the list).
- 2.2 On or before 26 July 2018 the PESP will select a squad of six (6) combinations (the '**WEG Squad**'). The WEG Squad will be selected from the WEG Long List. The WEG Squad will comprise the four (4) specified combinations to compete at WEG (the '**WEG team**') plus two (2) reserve combinations (the '**WEG Reserves**') that will not be ranked.
- 2.3 The 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 Squad, if:
  - 3.1.1 In the opinion of the PESP (in consultation with the Team Vet, the High Performance Director and the Para Equestrian Performance Manager), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the WEG Squad, that is assessed to be likely to be sustained and affect performance at WEG; or
  - 3.1.2 A member of the WEG Squad contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or
  - 3.1.3 A member of the WEG Squad does not meet the requirements outlined in the athletes agreement;

that member of the WEG Squad may be replaced by another combination previously selected for the WEG Long List ('a Substitution').

3.2 Following selection of the WEG Team if:

- 3.2.1 In the opinion of the PESP (in consultation with the High Performance Director, Para Equestrian Performance Manager and Team Vet), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the WEG Team that is likely to be sustained and affect performance at WEG: or
- 3.2.2 A member of the WEG Squad contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or
- 3.2.3 A member of the WEG Squad does not meet the requirements outlined in the athletes agreement;

that member of the WEG team may be replaced by one of the WEG Reserves ('a Reserve Substitution').

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION FOR THE WEG NOMINATED ENTRIES

4.1 For **Athletes** to be eligible for selection for the WEG Long List, 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 Be able to attend and participate in training clinics and camps as notified in writing, unless a written exemption has been granted by the High Performance Director or Para-Equestrian Performance Manager in response to a timely written request from the athlete for an exemption;
- 4.1.4 be able and willing to undertake the training and competition program recommended by the High Performance Director and Para-Equestrian Performance Manager after consultation with the athlete;
- 4.1.5 be willing to 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;
- 4.1.6 have signed the Para-Equestrian National Squad Agreement
- 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 the Games to the highest possible standard; and

- 4.1.9 have acted and at all times act in such a manner so as to not bring the athlete, the discipline of Para Equestrian or EA into public disrepute or censure.
- 4.2 For **Horses** to be eligible for selection to WEG Long List, all horses must:
- 4.2.1 be registered with EA or another FEI-recognised National Federation;
- 4.2.2 have passed a veterinary examination<sup>1</sup> to the satisfaction of the Team Vet;
- 4.3 **Owners** - in order for the horse and athlete combination to be selected for WEG Long List, EA must have received from the Owner(s)<sup>2</sup> of the nominated horse a signed copy of the 2018 EA Para-Equestrian Squad Horse Owner Agreement.
- 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 CEO of EA within three (3) working days from the date of the announcement of the WEG Squad.
- 5.4 It shall be a condition of selection for the WEG Long List that each Athlete expressly agrees to and accepts the provisions of this clause 5 including, without limitation, clause 5.1

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 with the 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.

### 6. NOMINATION CRITERIA

The nomination criteria combines both Competition Criteria and General Criteria.

#### 6.1 Competition Criteria

To be considered for selection for the WEG Team Squad, all horses and athletes must have met the Minimum Eligibility Requirement for a Championship pursuant to the FEI World Equestrian Games 2018 - Qualification Criteria for Para-Equestrian Dressage:

[http://inside.fei.org/system/files/WEG2018\\_Qualification%20Criteria\\_30Aug2017.pdf](http://inside.fei.org/system/files/WEG2018_Qualification%20Criteria_30Aug2017.pdf)

#### **Qualification Period:**

Start: 1 January 2017

End: 13 August 2018

In addition to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

#### **Minimum Qualification Criteria** (art 8451 Para-Equestrian Dressage Rules)

Qualifying Events: Any CPEDI 3\* or 4\* event during the qualification period in addition to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Qualification Score: All Athlete/Horse combinations must have attained (as a combination) a minimum 62 % score attributed by the Ground Jury in a Team test or Individual Championship test one time.

#### 6.2 General Criteria

In evaluating the performances of combinations that have met the Competition Criteria, the PESP will take into account the following General Criteria:

- (a) Competition considerations
  - (i) Have achieved an overall percentage of 68% or above in the Team or Individual test in at least two (2) nominated WEG Observation Events.
  - (ii) Target Scores for each grade to be taken into consideration when selecting the WEG 2018 Team are as follows:

Grade 1	75.28%
Grade 2	74.42%
Grade 3	71.81%
Grade 4	71.34%
Grade 5	73.94%

Target scores are based on the average of the gold, silver and bronze medal winning scores from the Team and Individual tests in each Grade at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

- (iii) Athletes must provide two (2) Team and two (2) Individual test scores from up to three (3) of the Observation events.<sup>3</sup> These scores will be averaged to produce a final score then used to calculate a ranking list. The ranking list will be considered by the PESP as an indicator of performance standard.
- (b) Observation Events - A list of five (5) Australian shows and five (5) Western European/UK shows may be nominated as Observation shows, and dates will be confirmed once the FEI calendar is finalised.

The five (5) Australian Observation Events are as follows;

- Dressage Festival, Werribee VIC – 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017
- Boneo CPEDI3\*, Boneo VIC – 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018
- Sydney CDI, Horsley Park NSW – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- Youth Dressage Championships, Horsley Park NSW – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Brisbane CDI, Brisbane QLD – 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018

The five (5) Western European/UK Observation Events are as follows;

- Deauville CPEDI3\*, FRA – 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- Waregem CPEDI3\*, BEL – 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018
- Mannheim CPEDI3\*, GER – 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- ~~Roosendaal CPEDI3\*, NED – 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018~~
- Hartpury CPEDI3\*, GBR – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018

- (c) Discretionary Considerations

The PESP has the discretion to place a greater emphasis on one or more of the general criteria in considering combinations for selection. In assessing the performances of Combinations, the PESP will consider the following competition based factors. These factors include, but are not restricted to:

- (i) The performance of each Combination in relation to the quality and number of competitors;
- (ii) The technical features of the competition, in particular (but not limited to):
- (a) The judging (including the breakdown of scores across multiple judges);

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<sup>3</sup> A veterinary certificate issued by an EA National Team Veterinarian or a medical certificate is required in order to receive dispensation by the Selection Panel from any of the above conditions. The veterinary or medical certificate must be received by EA **prior** to the start of the competition.

- (b) the quality of the riding by an Athlete
  - (c) the atmosphere of the competition; and
  - (d) the general conditions under which the performance is achieved, such as weather, surface and footing.
- (iii) Where the aspect of 'current form' is to be considered, performances at most recent events may be taken into account as to how this relates to improving form
  - (iv) Placing's at all CPEDIs within the selection period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 to the final selection date will be considered but do not necessarily position one rider above another in terms of selection.
  - (v) A rider 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. Performances demonstrating an improving trend will be considered favourably.
  - (vi) Results achieved at CPEDI events in Europe may carry a greater weighting in selection than those results achieved by combinations at competitions in Australia, dependent upon factors such as the quality of the field, level and experience of the judges, and any other factors that may affect the competition (at the sole discretion of the Selectors)
  - (vii) The PESP at their discretion may take into consideration each athlete's ability to add to a positive team environment under the unique stressors of International Team Competition

## 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 Para-Equestrian Performance Manager 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 Removal from a List

Athletes who:

- 7.2.1 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
- 7.2.2 contravene the FEI or EA Codes of Conduct, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or
- 7.2.3 fail to comply with the terms of their Athletes agreement; or
- 7.2.3 do not meet any other stated requirement communicated to them in writing by EA,

may be removed from the WEG Squad. Removal from the WEG Squad by the EA Selection Panel may only be with the prior written approval of the HPD of EA.

### 7.3 Additions to the WEG Long List

The JSP 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.

## 8. POST SELECTION SUBSTITUTIONS

If, after team selection, the horse sustains an injury and/or exacerbates an earlier injury and/or shows symptoms of an illness at any time up to the point of competition, the horse will be subject to an assessment of the current form of the horse to compete at the expected level. This assessment could be conducted by a nominated Para Equestrian Selector or by any suitably qualified person/s nominated for that purpose by the HPD in consultation with the PESP, Para Equestrian Performance Manager and Team veterinarian. Results of this assessment would be forwarded to the PESP to carry out a decision on the suitability of the horse to retain their position in the team.

Any replacement must be made in accordance with this Selection Policy.

## 9. CLASSIFICATION

If, should an athlete's classification grade should be changed throughout the duration of the selection and qualification period, that athlete will still be eligible for selection at the new grade of classification.

### ANNEXURE A

#### *Para Equestrian Selection Timelines –*

Date	Event	Comment
<b>1 Sep 2017 – 20 July 2018</b>	Selection shows both in EU and AUS	
<b>19 June 2018</b>	WEG Long List announced by PESP	Up to 8 combinations
<b>24-26 July 2018</b>	Final Vet Checks	If required prior to announcement of team
<b>26 July 2018</b>	WEG Squad announced	4 combinations plus two non travelling reserve
<b>13 Aug 2018</b>	FEI Qualification period ends	
<b>TBC</b>	Appeals finalised	