

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

1. OBJECTIVE

To select athletes for the Australian Driving Team and Individuals to achieve the best possible result for Australia at the 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies

2. PROCESS OF SELECTION: FEI CRITERIA

Qualification Period Start: 1st January 2020

Qualification Period End: TBA

FEI Qualification Criteria

The Athletes are required to possess the 3[^] Status or higher to compete at the Championships.

Drivers:

Open to athletes who meet the FEI criteria and have obtained the 3* status.

The following Dressage tests will be run at the Championships:

Pony Four in Hand: Dressage Test 3*B HP4

Pony Pairs: Dressage Test 3*B HP2

Pony Singles: Dressage Test 3*B HP1

PROCESS OF SELECTION: EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA

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

- 2.1 The initial process of selection will commence with the current endorsed National Driving Selection Panel (NDSP) identifying athletes from which the Driving team and Individuals will be primarily selected (Long list). The Long list will be announced on or before the 9th August 2021
- 2.2 Once identified to the long list, athletes will need to provide evidence to support their interest in competing in 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies no later than 14th August 2021 (date subject to change)
- 2.3 Based on the evidence available, the NDSP will select athletes who are most likely to meet the selection objectives (Short List). The dates for the short list announcement will be subject to confirmation upon release of the event schedule. This will be confirmed once the relevant information is readily available.
 - 2.3.1 The short list will consist of athletes nominated by EA to the FEI as Nominated Entries as per FEI qualification and entry requirements.
- 2.4 The NDSP will select the Australian Driving Team and Individuals for 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies from the short list.

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The 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies Team and/or Individuals will be announced prior to definite entries for the event.

- 2.5 This process, including published dates, 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 process. Any variation amendment or supplement must be made in writing. EA will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to all persons affected by any variation, amendment or supplement to these criteria.
- 2.6 The NDSP may request further evidence to assist decisions within the selection process. Evidence may be requested from multiple sources, including but not limited to:
- The Athlete;
 - Coaches, and Officials;
 - Equestrian Australia

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION FOR THE LONG LIST, SHORT LIST AND 2021 FEI WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR COMBINED PONIES TEAM AND INDIVIDUALS

- 3.1 For **Athletes and Horses** to be eligible for selection, all athletes must:
- 3.1.1 Athletes be a current member of EA; Horses to be registered with EA or Country of Origin.
- 3.1.2 be eligible to compete for Australia as per FEI regulations Art. 119;
- 3.1.3 In making the selections the NDSP will only select drivers and horse combinations who have;
- Not breached the requirements of the EA or FEI Equine Anti-Doping & Medication Control Policies.
 - Not breached an applicable anti-doping policy, including EA or the FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes, unless the Athlete has already been sanctioned for the breach and has completed the sanction imposed;
 - Not used or administered any substance that, if it had been detected as being present in the Athlete's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted Doping as defined in the EA Anti-Doping Policy;
- 3.1.4 Provide accurate and up-to-date whereabouts information on a regular basis to the EA;
- 3.1.5 satisfy any additional preconditions advised in writing to the athlete by EA prior to or at the time of selection for 2018 FEI World Driving Championships for Combined Ponies Nominated Entries;
- 3.1.6 sign the Team Member Agreement

4. APPEALS

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- 4.1 Appeals concerning non-selection of athletes and horses for the 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies Squad will be heard by an EA Appeal Tribunal in accordance with the EA Appeal By-Laws.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Only athletes may appeal their non-selection. 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 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies Team and/or Individuals.

5. NOMINATION CRITERIA

5.1 Selection Criteria

- 5.1.1 All Athletes must meet current FEI qualification requirements to be eligible for selection to the Australian Driving Teams.
- 5.1.2 The NDSP will select qualified and suitable Athletes to compete as:
 - Individual
 - Team
- 5.1.3 The NDSP will seek to select athlete/horse combinations that they believe will achieve the best possible result for Australia at 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies.
- 5.1.4 Athletes must show evidence that they are able to consistently score below the minimum EA qualifying score required for the 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies

5.2 General Criteria

In considering the performances of Athletes that have met the selection criteria, the NDSP will take into account the following general criteria:

- 5.2.1 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.
- 5.2.2 The NDSP, in their discretion, may take into consideration the standard of competition, the number of competitors, the level of experience of the judges and the overall quality of the competition when scores have been achieved.
- 5.2.3 An athlete/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.

- 5.2.4 The NDSP in their discretion may take into consideration the ability of an athlete to perform at major international Championships or Events or past performances at such events, even when these events fall outside of the selection period.
- 5.2.5 Unforeseen circumstances, including those outside of the control of the athlete, may also qualify for dispensation at the sole discretion of the NDSP.

6. DISCRETIONARY CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Extraordinary Factors

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

6.1.1 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy must advise the High Performance Director and/or National Driving Selection Panel of this fact, and the reasons, in writing, before the commencement of the activity or as soon as practicable.

6.1.2 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.

6.1.3 In the case of injury or illness, the horse may be required to undergo a veterinary examination by a veterinarian or veterinarian nominated by EA. If an independent veterinary assessment is to be undertaken this may be at the expense and responsibility of the Driver.

6.1.4 In the case of bereavement, equipment failure, travel delays, quarantine factors or other extraordinary factors, the Panel will make a decision on an individual basis.

6.2 Additions to the National Driving Selection Panel Long list and Short list

6.2.1 when considering the selection of the long list for the 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies the NDSP may utilize their discretion to include additional members up until the date of definite entries

6.3 Removal from a list

Athletes who:

6.3.1 by reason of illness or injury are unable to perform to the required standard as determined by the NDSP (after having received advice from a medical practitioner);

6.3.2 contravene the FEI or EA Codes of Conduct or EA Rules and policies;

6.3.3 fail to comply with the terms of their Athlete's Agreement; or

6.3.4 do not meet any other stated requirement communicated to them in writing by EA,

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May be removed from the 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies Long or Short Lists or 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies Team.

- 6.3.5 Horses who, by reason of illness or injury are unable to perform to the required standard as determined by the NDSP (after having received advice from a Veterinarian);

Removal from the 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Combined Ponies Long List, Short List can be undertaken by the NDSP but only with the prior written approval of the EA HPD or Chair of National Driving Selectors.