

## FEI ENDURANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SENIORS 2024 – Monpazier (FRA)

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 2024 World Championship. 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 the **8 May 2024**, the initial process will commence with the National Endurance Selection Panel (the '**NESP**') selecting a Long list of athletes and horses, from the submitted expressions of interest applications (the '**World Championship Team**'), from which the FEI Endurance World Championship Team for 2024 will be primarily selected.
- 2.2 On or before the **30 May 2024**, the NESP will select athlete and horse combinations to be nominated to the FEI (the '**World Championship Nominated Entries**') primarily, but not exclusively, from the World Championship Team.
- 2.3 On or before ~~1 July 2024~~ **9 July 2024**, the NESP will select seven Athletes and seven Horses (includes up to two reserve Horses/Combinations), to compete at the World Championships (the '**World Championship Team**').
- 2.4 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 World Championship Team, if:
  - 3.1.1 In the opinion of the NESP (in consultation with the High-Performance Director, Team Vet, and the Chef d'équipe), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the World Championship Team that is assessed to be likely to be sustained and affect performance at World Championship; or
  - 3.1.2 A member of the World Championship Team contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies: or
  - 3.1.3 A member of the World Championship Team does not meet the requirements outlined in the athlete's agreement,

that member of the World Championship Team may be replaced by another combination previously selected for World Championship Nominated Entries (a **Substitution**).

3.2 Following arrival at the World Championship, if:

- 3.2.1 in the opinion of the NESP (in consultation with the High Performance Director, Chef d'équipe and Team Vet), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the World Championship Team that is likely to be sustained and affect performance at World Championship; or
- 3.2.2 A member of the World Championship Team contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies:

that member of the World Championship team may be replaced by the World Championship Individual representative.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP NOMINATED ENTRIES

- 4.1 For **Athletes** to be eligible for selection for the World Championship Nominated Entries, 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 EA or the Chef d'équipe, 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 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 Athlete 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 World Championship 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 at World Championships 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 Endurance or EA into public disrepute or censure.

- 4.2 For **Horses** to be eligible for selection to World Championship Nominated Entries, all horses must:
- 4.2.1 be registered with EA or another FEI recognised National Federation;
  - 4.2.2 have passed a veterinary examination to the satisfaction of the Team Vet;<sup>1</sup>
  - 4.2.3 not have breached the requirements of the EA or FEI Anti-Doping & Medication Control Policies;
  - 4.2.4 have a current FEI passport
  - 4.2.5 meet horse age requirements as per FEI Endurance Article 827.1
- 4.3 For **Owners** - in order for the horse and athlete combination to be selected for World Championship Nominated Entries, EA must have received from the owner(s) of the nominated horse a signed copy of the 2024 EA Team Horse Owner Agreement. <sup>2</sup>

### 5. APPEALS

- 5.1 Appeals concerning non-selection of athletes and horses for the World Championship 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 World Championship Team.
- 5.4 It shall be a condition of selection for the World Championship Nominated Entries 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 Competition Criteria (FEI Qualification Criteria) and the General criteria.

#### 6.1 Competition Criteria

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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 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 2024 World Championship

To be considered for selection for the World Championship Team all horses and athletes must have met the Minimum Eligibility Requirements for a Championship pursuant to Chapter V, Article 836 Endurance Rules 2024 (**FEI Qualification**). The FEI Qualification is an annexure to the document and can be found at: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/endurance/main-events>

- 6.1.1 have successfully qualified as per 6.1 (above) the FEI Qualifications Procedure for 2024 Senior Endurance World Championships.
- 6.1.2 have further experience at FEI/VGIH competitions additional to the qualifying procedures.

### 6.2 General Criteria

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

- 6.2.1 The combinations that the NESP believe have the ability to contribute positively to the 2024 World Championship Team, achieving the best possible result at the 2024 World Championship 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
  - 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 World Championship.
  - f) Any other factors the NESP in its sole discretion consider relevant in the circumstances
- 6.2.2 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 NESP 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 NESP, has the potential to be inconsistent.
- 6.2.3 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 **2022-2024**.

- 6.2.4 Placings at all International competitions within the selection period **from 9 July 2022 to 9 July 2024** will be considered but do not automatically position one athlete above another in terms of selection.
- 6.2.5 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.
- 6.2.6 The NESP 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.
- 6.2.7 The age, soundness and fitness of the horse will be taken into consideration.
- 6.2.8 It is recognised that competitiveness at endurance requires an effective team of Trainer, 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 at all times work cooperatively, demonstrate respect and behave appropriately; and commit to their best possible performance at World Championships and best possible outcome for Australia.
- 6.3 In addition to the above criteria, the following shall be included in ranking applicants for selection:
- 6.3.1 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 FEI Rides.
- 6.3.2 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.
- 6.3.3 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.
- 6.3.4 Ranking points will be reduced for eliminations at any endurance rides in the preceding 24 months.
- 6.3.5 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.
- 6.3.6 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.

- 6.3.7 Fast recovery times at vet gates will also be considered in the horse's overall performance
- 6.3.8 Ranking points will be reduced for eliminations at any Endurance riders in the preceding 24 months.

## **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 World Championship Team**

The NESP 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 World Championship Lists. Removal from the World Championship Lists by the NESP 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 NESP believes will achieve the best possible result at the 2024 Endurance World Championships for Seniors. 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 NESP 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 NESP, then individual combinations may be nominated for the 2024 Endurance World Championships for Seniors.

#### **8. KEY DATES**

| DATE (on or before)                   | EVENT                                  | COMMENTS   |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>9 July 2022 to<br/>9 July 2024</b> | Qualification Period                   |  |
| <b>5 May 2024</b>                     | Expressions of Interest close          | <a href="mailto:di.saunders@equestrian.org.au">di.saunders@equestrian.org.au</a> |
| <b>8 May 2024</b>                     | World Championship Team Announced      | Not restricted by number   |
| <b>30 May 2024</b>                    | EA Nominated Entries                   | Up to 7 athletes and 7 horses as combinations                                    |
| <b>1 July 2024<br/>9 July 2024</b>    | AUS Team announced                     | 7 combinations include up to two reserve Horses/Combinations                     |
| <b>23 July 2024</b>                   | FEI Nominated Entries                  |  |
| <b>27 August 2024</b>                 | FEI Definite Entries                   |  |
| <b>7 September 2024</b>               | FEI Endurance World Champs for Seniors | MONPAZIER (FRA)  |

Once announced, Long Listed athletes are expected to provide the following information to the NESP 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

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION POLICY – ENDURANCE

- 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 NESP, 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).

Approved by EA on 27/04/2024. Updated 20/06/2024