



Hong Kong Equestrian Federation 香港馬術總會

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The 14th China National Games 2021

SELECTION POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Hong Kong Equestrian Squad (the “Squad”) for the 2021 China National Games (the “Games”) will be nominated by the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation (“HKEF”) to the Hong Kong SAR Government’s Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”).
- 1.2. The Games are governed by the rules of the Chinese Equestrian Association (“CEA”). In addition, regulations may also be imposed by the LCSD.
- 1.3. The Hong Kong Squad will consist of athletes for Jumping and will have up to four team places available for athlete / horse combinations or one individual slot for one athlete / horse combination. No reserve athletes are allowed after the definite entries are made. A travelling reserve horse may be identified at the time of definite entries.
- 1.4. The Games will take place at the equestrian venue of the Qinhan New City in Xixian New District, Shaanxi (the “Venue”) from 16 to 25 September 2021. Dates and venue are subject to change by the Organizing Committee (the “Organizers”).

2. AIM OF THE POLICY

- 2.1. The specific aim of this selection policy (the “Policy”) is to select athlete / horse combinations for nomination to the Squad or the best athlete / horse combination for one individual slot that will deliver the best possible results for Hong Kong at the Games in the equestrian disciplines of Jumping.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 3.1. It is vitally important for the integrity of the Policy that athletes, owners, performance managers, HKEPP team staff, selectors, staff and associated parties’ practice at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such. Any person who breaks this confidentiality will be removed from the process.

4. SELECTION PANEL

- 4.1 Selection will be undertaken by the HKEF Training and Selection Sub Committee (“TSSC”), with their recommendation being ratified by the Executive Committee of the HKEF.

- 4.2 All members of the TSSC will be appointed by the HKEF Executive Committee and will be free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest, in so far as is possible.
- 4.3 The Secretary General of the HKEF will maintain a register of conflicts of interest and all members of the TSSC will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise.
- 4.4 Each member of the TSSC will have equal voting rights. Decisions must be reached by a majority and with no abstentions (unless a member is required to abstain due to a declared conflict of interest). In the event of no majority vote being reached, the final decision will be made by the HKEF Executive Committee.
- 4.5 All those involved in selection will act throughout the process with integrity, honesty and will use their discretion to select athlete / horse combinations on to the Squad or one athlete / horse combination on to the individual slot, having due regard for the selection Policy set out below.
- 4.6 Other advisors will be used as required (e.g. Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan (HKEPP) personnel). To avoid conflict, HKEPP personnel, including the Head of Equestrian Affairs for the Hong Kong Jockey Club will advise the TSSC, but will not have a vote in the selection decision.

5. CHANGES TO THE SELECTION POLICY

- 5.1 The TSSC will have the right in exceptional circumstances to amend or change the Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the Policy. Any changes to the Policy must be approved in writing by the HKEF Executive Committee. The amended Policy in its entirety will be communicated to all athletes who are in contention for selection and the new policy will be published on the HKEF website.
- 5.2 In the event of the relocation, cancellation or postponement of the Games all relevant parties will be notified immediately. In the event of postponement, a different team may be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and the Selection Policy will be applied again.

6. ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

- 6.1 The HKEF office will ensure that each athlete available for selection satisfies the requirements of the Organisers and the HKSAR Government, as well as other criteria detailed below, before they can be considered. In general, this includes being:
- a Chinese national;
 - a full, paid up member of HKEF and eligible to represent Hong Kong in competitions under the rules of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (the "FEI");
 - athletes must be at least 16 years of age (born in 2005 or before)
 - horses must be at least 6 years old or above (born in 2015 or before)
 - eligible under any applicable anti-doping code (i.e. not be serving a competition ban as a result of a proven doping or controlled medication violation, human or athlete).
- 6.2 In addition, as a condition of selection for the Games, an athlete will be obliged to sign the Squad Members' Agreement and to abide by the Squad Charter.

7. COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

As far as is known, at the time in which this policy is published, the level of competition expected at the Games is to be as follows:

7.1 **Jumping:**

The Jumping Competition will take place over four (4) rounds, two rounds of different courses for Team Competition/ Individual Qualifier and another two rounds of different courses for the Individual Competition.

Obstacles and other technical requirements	Team Competition/ Individual Qualifier	Individual Competition
Number of obstacles	12	TBC
Height	1.35 – 1.45m	1.45 – 1.6m
Width	1.40 – 1.60m	1.50 -1.70m
Triple bar width	1.90m	2.00m
Maximum spread of water jump	3.50m	No data
Number of Combinations	1 Double and 1 Treble	No data
Speed	350m/min	No data
Table	A	A
1 st Round	Against the clock	Not against the clock
2 nd Round	Against the clock	Not against the clock
Jump-off	Not applicable	Possible Jump Off for the first three places in the event of equality of penalties after the two rounds

7.2 The Individual Final is open to the top 24 combinations (including those tied for 24th place) from the Individual qualifier.

7.3 Competition will be run in accordance with the relevant FEI discipline rules.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

8.1. The TSSC will take the following criteria into account in making their selections decisions:

8.1.1 The performance of the particular athlete and horse in classes of the same level as the Games. Recent performance will take precedent over historical performance. This will be the primary factor in selection, but consideration will be given as follows:

Jumping: the FEI star level of the show (if applicable), the standing of the competition, the difficulty of the course, the surfaces and conditions, the competitiveness of the other combinations (through FEI rankings) and the consistency and rate of progress of the combination;

8.1.2 The physical conditions in which the Games will be held and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete / horse combination's performance;

8.1.3 The fitness and soundness of the horse. The advice of the HKEPP Programme veterinary surgeon or another appointed veterinary surgeon may be sought;

8.1.4 The fitness of an athlete to perform to their full potential at the Games may be considered by the TSSC when selecting combinations or reserves for the Games;

8.1.5 The willingness of the athlete and their owners, grooms, coaches, or other individuals to contribute positively to the Squad environment, the objective of the selection Policy and to abide by the squad charter;

9. SELECTION PROCESS

9.1 **Selection:** The TSSC will meet or discuss by email circulation in order to select the Squad or the individual and reserves as required. The TSSC will be briefed by the HKEF Secretary General as to the athlete's or horse's fitness for selection.

9.2 **Veterinary Matters:** As part of the selection process the advice from the HKEPP veterinary surgeon will be taken into consideration. Where required, there may be an official inspection of the horses where a blood and / or urine test may be taken, along with other assessment methods by appointed veterinary surgeon in China. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their horse owners' own veterinary surgeon and the HKEPP veterinary surgeon or the appointed veterinary surgeon in China.

9.3 **Anti-doping and controlled medications:** As part of the selection process, horses may be randomly tested for the presence of controlled medications or prohibited substances as detailed in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations in force at the time of testing. Athletes are to ensure owners of their horses will consent to the testing. In the instance of failing to provide a sample (for whatever reason) the combination will become ineligible for selection. Results and any subsequent investigations will be taken in to account when making selection decisions.

9.4 **Timeline**

9.4.1 **26 June 2020: Expressions of interest** – athletes are required to make expressions of interest to the HKEF of all possible combinations they wish to be considered for selection.

9.4.2 **31 May 2021: Submission of potential horses** – athletes are required to provide their initial potential horses to compete at the Games

9.4.3 **1 June 2021: Nomination Entries of Hong Kong representatives:** the date by which the HKEF office will submit all potential riders to LCSD

9.4.4 **12 August 2021: Selection of riders and horses** – the date by which the TSSC will make the selection of one individual rider and 2 horses (1 main and 1 reserve) for the Games

9.4.5 **13 August 2021: HKEF Executive Committee confirmation** – the date by which the HKEF will ratify the selection decisions of the TSSC

9.4.4 **13 August 2021: Selection decisions notified to athletes & Definite Entries**

- 9.5 **Squad / selected Individual rider Announcement:** The LCSD will make the formal announcement of selection. Athletes will be notified of the HKEF's decision prior to the formal announcement, but are required to maintain complete confidentiality until the formal announcement is made.

10. POST SELECTION

- 10.1 **Team Running Order:** The Chef d'Equipe or official appointed by the HKEF will decide the Team running order, where applicable. The Chef d'Equipe or official appointed by the HKEF will inform athletes accordingly. The Chef d'Equipe or official appointed by the HKEF may make amendments to the Team running order if deemed necessary to do so.

- 10.2 **Maintaining Form:** Athletes should note that selection decisions are subject to the athlete / horse combinations retaining fitness / performance (see substitution below). Once an athlete / horse combination has been selected they must maintain a suitable training or competition programme.

- 10.3 **Substitution:** No athlete substitution is allowed after definite entries. In the case of a horse being considered unable due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, this decision will be made by TSSC following an examination by the HKEPP Team veterinarian and in consultation with the appointed veterinary surgeon in China if available.

- 10.4 **Code of Conduct / Athlete Agreement:**

10.4.1 All selected athletes will be required to sign and abide by the HKEF Athletes' agreement, which will be made available to athletes at selection.

10.4.2 Athletes and other accredited personnel will be required to sign and abide by any LCSD generated agreements and /or abide by codes of behaviour for the equestrian squad at the Games.

10.4.3 Athletes and their support teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, the HKEF, their supporters (namely, but not exclusively the Hong Kong Jockey Club) or the HKSAR Government in to disrepute.

11. GENERAL

- 11.1 Athletes will be required to attend the compulsory post arrival quarantine in China and training before travelling to Shaanxi for the Games. The competition horses will travel to Shaanxi on or around 13 September 2021 (all dates are subject to change).

- 11.3 Athletes are responsible to ensure that their horse arrives in Shaanxi in time and satisfy all necessary travel regulations in China. The cost of transportation within China and the Venue will be supported by HKEF.

- 11.4 Pre-Games vet check fee, round trip economy ticket, horse leasing fee, riders' mandatory quarantine in China and on the return trip, daily meals, accommodation and local transportation in China during the training period and the Games will be covered by the HKEF

on reimbursement basis. Ceilings on each of the eligible items will be adhered to the HKSI Tier A and the LCSD participation funding guidelines.

- 11.5 Riders will be required to look for their own grooms for their leased horses in China. No groom or groom fees will be provided by the HKEF.
- 11.6 Riders will be responsible for their own training during the post arrival quarantine period up to the Games. No coaching support will be provided by the HKEPP performance managers or the HKEF.
- 11.7 Athletes travelling to China specifically for the Games are advised to avail themselves of the latest travel and quarantine regulations in China. At the time of publishing this policy, available flights from Europe to China are extremely limited and related travel and quarantine arrangements are changing from time to time.

12. COMMUNICATION

- 12.1 **Publication of the Policy:** The Selection Policy will be placed on the HKEF Website and distributed by email to all athletes in contention for selection.

12.2 Point of Contact

12.2.1 Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made in writing to the Secretary General of the HKEF.

12.2.2 The point of contact for athletes who are considering selection and wish to wish to discuss their intended travel plans to China will be the HKEF Secretary General.

13. APPEALS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

- 13.1 Athletes have the right to appeal against a selection decision but only on the grounds that the TSSC have failed to comply with this Policy or have made a decision that no rational body of competent selectors could reasonably reach. An appeal must be made by submitting notice in writing to the Secretary General of the HKEF within 48 hours of being informed of the decision.
- 13.2 The Secretary General shall on receipt of the notice of appeal seek to bring together all parties for a 'without prejudice' discussion. The appeal process will continue to run throughout this stage, however, in the event that both parties agree that the discussion has resolved the appeal, the appeal may be withdrawn.
- 13.3 The appeal shall be considered by the President of the HKEF whose decision shall be final.

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