



The Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong, China 中國香港馬術總會

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Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

SELECTION POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong China (“EFHKC”) will make nominations to the China Hong Kong Paralympic Committee (“CHKPC”) for the Hong Kong Equestrian Squad (the “Squad”) for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (the “Games”).
- 1.2. The Games are governed by the International Paralympic Committee (“IPC”). The equestrian competitions will run in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) in force during the Games.
- 1.3. Hong Kong have qualified one slot for the Para Dressage discipline.
- 1.4. The Games will take place at the Chateau De Versailles in Versailles, Paris (the “Venue”) from 28 August to 8 September 2024, with equestrian competition specifically on 3 – 7 September 2024. 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 the athlete / horse combination, along with reserves for nomination to the Squad that will deliver the best possible results for Hong Kong at the Games in the equestrian disciplines of Para Dressage.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

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

4. SELECTION PANEL

- 4.1 Selection will be undertaken by the EFHKC Training and Selection Sub Committee (“TSSC”), with their recommendation being ratified by the Executive Committee of the EFHKC.
- 4.2 All members of the TSSC are appointed by the EFHKC Executive Committee and will be free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest, insofar as is possible.
- 4.3 The Executive Director of the EFHKC 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. In the instance of identified conflict of interest, selectors will abstain from the selection process.

- 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 EFHKC 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, 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 In exceptional circumstances, the TSSC will have the right 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 EFHKC 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 EFHKC 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 EFHKC office will ensure that each athlete available for selection satisfies the requirements of the IPC, Organisers and the HKSAR Government, as well as other criteria detailed below, before they can be considered. In general, this includes being:
- a Hong Kong passport holder and satisfying the eligibility requirements of the FEI Regulations and the IPC Handbook's athlete nationality policy in force; specifically, Chapter 3.1 – IPC Policy on the nationality of competitors;
 - a fully paid-up member of the EFHKC, eligible to represent Hong Kong in competitions under the rules of the FEI;
 - be at least 14 years of age (born on or before 31 December 2010);
 - be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2024;
 - have achieved at least one (1) sixty-four percent (64%) score at a FEI Para Equestrian CPEDI3* or above event in and Individual or Team competition between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 or have achieved at least one (1) sixty-four percent (64%) score at a FEI Para Equestrian CPEDI3* or above event in a Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B test from 1 January 2023 to 16 June 2024.
- 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.
- 6.3 For the avoidance of doubt, athletes can be considered for selection as a combination with more than one horse. Athletes may only ride one horse at the Games and there is no travelling reserve horse allowed to enter the venue.

7. COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Para Equestrian Dressage:

Competition Formula	Level / Test	Participation
Individual Medal Event	FEI Para Grand Prix A test applicable to the Grade of the selected Athlete	All
Team Medal Event	-	Not applicable as HKG has not gained a team slot
Individual Freestyle Medal Event	FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle applicable to the Grade of the selected Athlete	Top 8 combinations from the results of the Individual Medal Event

7.2 All competition will be run in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games (2nd Edition) effective for the Paris 2024 (FRA) Paralympic Games and the relevant current 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 Only Athlete and Horse combinations who have achieved the minimum eligibility requirements by 16 June 2024 can be considered;

8.1.2 The performance of the Athlete and Horse combination in the 2024 season, with specific relevance given to performance in CPEDI3* Grand Prix competitions;

8.1.3 The performance of the Athlete in Paralympic Athlete Ranking Qualification events and the associated points earned by the Athlete by the deadline of 31 December 2023;

8.1.4 The commitment of the Athlete to Squad training activity undertaken;

8.1.5 The physical conditions in which the Games will be held and the potential impact of those conditions on the Athlete / Horse combination's performance;

8.1.6 The fitness and soundness of the Horse. The advice of the HKEPP Programme veterinary surgeon or another appointed veterinary surgeon will be sought. Veterinary history will be taken in to account.

8.1.7 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;

8.1.8 The willingness of the Athlete and their carers to act as an ambassador for Hong Kong China, to uphold the Paralympic principles, 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 in order to select the Squad (including reserves as required). The TSSC will be briefed by the HKEPP staff 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 Team 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.
- 9.3 **Timeline**
- 9.3.1 **29 February 2024:** EFHKC submit long list of all possible combinations to CHKPC
- 9.3.2 **16 June 2024: Deadline for Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER)** – Athletes will be required to have achieved their MER by this date for combinations to be considered for selection (this is earlier than the FEI published date to satisfy the processes of selection detailed below)
- 9.4.3 **17 June 2024: TSSC Selection** - the date by which the TSSC will make selection and communicate decision to the EFHKC Executive Committee
- 9.4.4 **18 June 2024: EFHKC Executive Committee confirmation** – the date by which the EFHKC will ratify the selection decisions of the TSSC
- 9.4.5 **19 June 2024: Deadline to notify the CHKPC the selected combinations.**
- 9.4.6 **19 June 2024: Selection decisions notified to athletes**
- 9.4.7 **5 July – 5 August 2024: Paris 2024 Sport Entries period**
- 9.5 **Squad Announcement:** The CHKPC will make the formal announcement of selection. Athletes will be notified of the EFHKC's decision prior to the formal announcement but are required to maintain complete confidentiality until the formal announcement is made.
- 9.6 In the event that the Organisers or CHKPC amend deadlines for the submission of entries, this timeline may be amended. All athletes in contention for selection will be notified of any changes immediately.

10. POST SELECTION

- 10.1 **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 as agreed with the HKEPP Performance Manager and Team Coach.
- 10.2 **Pre-Games Training Camp:** The selected Athlete(s) – (this may include reserves) will be required to travel to the United Kingdom ahead of the Games and participate in a pre-Games training and preparation event. Athletes should make themselves available any time from 12 August onwards. Final dates will be confirmed at the time of selection.

- 10.3 **Substitution:** The Selectors may substitute a selected combination for a reserve, and/or de-select any combination in the event that he/she fails to adhere to this Policy or Horse or Athlete are deemed to be unfit to compete, between the announcement of the Squad and the Paris 2024 Sport Entries deadline.

In the case of a horse being considered unable due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated, it may be substituted. This decision will be made by the TSSC following an examination by the Team veterinarian and in consultation with the relevant Performance Manager.

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

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

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

11. COMMUNICATION

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

11.2 **Point of Contact**

11.2.1 Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made in writing to the Executive Director of the EFHKC.

11.2.2 The point of contact for athletes who are considering selection and wish to discuss their intended competition plans will be the HKEPP Performance Manager.

12. APPEALS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

- 12.1 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 the appeal form and the appeal fee of HK\$5,000 to the Executive Director of the HKEF within 48 hours of being informed of the decision. Supporting information or documents shall be submitted together with the appeal form. In the event the appeal is successful, the appeal fee will be returned to the Athlete.
- 12.2 The Executive Director of HKEF shall acknowledge receipt of the appeal and will inform the President that an appeal has been received. Generally the Executive Director will manage communication between the parties and is available to answer any questions the appellant may have on the process.
- 12.3 The President shall appoint an appeal panel who shall consider the appeal, made up of three individuals with technical equestrian sporting expertise and legal knowledge, to be agreed by

the Executive Committee prior to selection. An appeal hearing may be held if required, which may be held virtually or in person dependent on the circumstances. Where held, the Athlete and his/her one representative will have an opportunity to present evidence as to the basis of their appeal. Additional accompanying attendance is subject to approval by the Appeal Panel. The proceedings should mainly be conducted in English. If either party wishes to address the Appeal Panel in Chinese or another language, the Appeal Panel must be advised in advance for arrangement. During the hearing, no photography, sound recording or video-taking is allowed without the prior approval of the Appeal Panel.

- 12.4 The Appeal Panel aims to make decisions that are not only fair and well-reasoned, but also speedy and timely. If appropriate, the Appeal Panel may make an oral decision at the end of the hearing with written explanation to be given to the appellant afterwards. In some cases, the Appeal Panel will need further time to consider the matter and will “reserve” its decision. This means it will let the parties know its decision at a later date.

The Appeal Panel shall always release a written decision, which includes an explanation of the reasons for the decision, to the appellant, the Executive Committee and the TSSC.

END