



# Hong Kong Equestrian Federation 香港馬術總會

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## **The 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games**

### **SELECTION POLICY**

#### **(version 2, published 11 August 2022)**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Hong Kong Equestrian Squad (the “Squad”) for the 2022 Asian Games (the “Games”) will be nominated by the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation (“HKEF”) to the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong (“SF&OC”).
- 1.2. The Games are governed by the Olympic Council of Asia (“OCA”). The equestrian competitions will run in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) in force during the Games time.
- 1.3. The Hong Kong Squad will consist of athletes for each of the disciplines of Dressage, Eventing and Jumping. Each discipline may have up to four team places available for athlete / horse combinations. Reserve combinations may be identified at selection, but will not travel to the Games unless they are subsequently selected on to the Squad
- 1.4. The Games will take place at the Tonglu Equestrian Centre, Yaolin Town, Tonglu County, Hangzhou (the “Venue”) from 23 September to 8 October 2023. 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 that will deliver the best possible results for Hong Kong at the Games in the equestrian disciplines of Dressage, Eventing and Jumping, whilst upholding the reputation the Federation in international equestrian sport.

#### **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. 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 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, 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 Hong Kong passport holder and satisfy the eligibility requirements of the OCA Constitution and Rules and its bylaws in force at the time of the Games.
  - athletes hold a valid Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macau Residents
  - a full, paid up member of HKEF and eligible to represent Hong Kong in competitions under the rules of the FEI;
  - athletes must be at least 16 years of age (born in 2007 or before) for dressage;
  - athletes must be at least 18 years of age (born in 2005 or before) for eventing and jumping;
  - horses must be at least 7 years old or above (born on or before 1 Jan 2016) for dressage;
  - horses must be at least 6 years old or above (born on or before 1 Jan 2017) for eventing;
  - horses must be at least 8 years old or above (born on or before 1 Jan 2015) for jumping;
  - 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);
  - possess qualification requirements as a combination of horse and athlete as required by the OC (eventing only);
  - written confirmation from the relevant horse owner (where the athlete is not the owner) that they commit to allow their horse to participate in the Games.

- 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, or in more than one discipline. Athletes may only ride one horse per discipline at the Games and horses may not be nominated in more than one discipline.

## 7. COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

7.1 The following competition requirements are based on the previous draft of the Technical Handbook. Any update to the Technical Handbook and associated requirements may require this Selection Policy to be updated. Any changes will be communicated to all Athletes in contention for selection and published on the HKEF website.

### 7.2 **Dressage:**

Competition Formula	Test	Participation
<b>Competition 1</b> Team Competition, individual qualifier	FEI Prix St. Georges (Edition 2021)	All
<b>Competition 2</b> Individual Competition 1	FEI Intermediate I (Edition 2021)	TBC by OC
<b>Competition 3</b> Individual Competition 2	FEI Intermediate Freestyle to Music (Edition 2017)	Fifteen best (including those tied for 15 <sup>th</sup> place) from Competition 2. Must have achieved minimum of 60% in competition 1. Only 2 individuals allowed per NOC.

### 7.3 **Eventing:**

The Eventing Competitions will take place over three days in the order of Dressage Test, Cross Country Test, and Jumping Test. It will be CCI2\*. All combinations must be qualified for a Two Star Championship Event in accordance with FEI rules.

Competition Formula	Level	Participation
<b>Dressage</b>	CCI Two Star Test A	All
<b>Cross Country</b>	Distance: 3640 – 4680m Speed: 520mpm Number of efforts: 25- 30	All
<b>Jumping</b>	Distance; 600m Speed: 350mpm Number of efforts: 13	All  Individual competition will take place after the team competition. A final individual round will determine the individual championship and will involve the top 20 combinations (including those tied for 20 <sup>th</sup> place). Only 2 individuals allowed per NOC.

#### 7.4 **Jumping:**

The Jumping Competition will take place over three days, with one rest day between days two and three. A water jump will be used during the championships.

Obstacles and other technical requirements	Team Event (Teams and Individuals)	Individual Event (Round one)	Individual Event (Round Two)
Number of obstacles	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Maximum height	1.40m	1.50m	1.50m
Speed	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Length	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Table	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
No. of rounds	2	1	1
Jump-off	Only if tied for medals	No	Only if tied for medals
Participation	All	Top 40 athletes including those tied for 40 <sup>th</sup> place from the two rounds of the team competition. All athletes should have finished both team rounds without being eliminated or retired. Only 3 individuals allowed per NOC.	Top 25 athletes including those tied for 25 <sup>th</sup> place from the first round of the Individual event. All athletes should have finished the first round without being eliminated or retired. Only 2 individuals allowed per NOC.

7.5 All competition will be run in accordance with the relevant current FEI discipline rules.

7.6 Athletes / horses must show consistent results at the competition levels anticipated in the competition. Combinations not showing sufficient results and an acceptable performance at the level required may not be selected, even in the event that team places remain available.

### **8. SELECTION CRITERIA**

8.1. The TSSC will take the following criteria into account in making their selections decisions. The following criteria are listed in order of importance:

8.1.1 The performance of the particular athlete / horse combination 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:

**Dressage:** results of combinations in FEI International PSG and Intermediate competitions (or above); considering the FEI star level of the show (if applicable) and the FEI star level of the panel of judges, the standing of the competition, the competitiveness of the other combinations (through FEI rankings) and the consistency and trend in scores throughout the season;

**Eventing:** results in competitions at FEI CCI2\* (or above), the competitiveness of the other combinations (through FEI rankings), the difficulty of the courses, the ground and conditions, and the consistency and rate of progress of the combination. Form at long format competition will be particularly relevant ~~over that of short format~~;

**Jumping:** results in FEI classes at 1:45m (or above) at outdoor shows, 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. Proof of the ability to jump water jumps will also be considered;

8.1.2 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.

8.1.3 Results of an athlete on other horses at the same level (or above) as the Games. Additionally, results of the horse with other riders at the same level (or above) as the Games.

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 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 performance of the athlete in previous Championships and Games and their ability to perform under pressure.

8.1.7 The willingness of the athlete to compete at shows / events identified by the performance manager as important for assessing performance. Athletes will be expected to give strong justification as to their reasons for not attending identified shows / events.

8.1.8 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 in order to select the Squad and 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. Athletes are expected to facilitate open communication between their own Veterinary Surgeon and the Team Veterinary Surgeon.

Athletes are required to keep an FEI medication logbook for all horses considered for selection (in accordance with Article 1055 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations) and must produce the logbook to team personnel on request. Failure to produce it on request may result in the athlete not being considered for selection.

9.3 **Anti-doping, controlled medications and limb sensitivity testing:** 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. They may also be subject to random limb sensitivity assessment. Athletes are to ensure owners of their horses will consent to the testing and assessment. In the instance of failing to provide a sample (for whatever reason) or to reject assessment, 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**

This timeline is subject to change in accordance with confirmation of timelines issues by SF&OC or the Organising Committee in due course.

9.4.1 **27 January 2023: Final 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 **21 May 2023:** Final date for competition results to be achieved

9.4.3 **22 May 2023: TSSC Selection** - the date by which the TSSC will make selection and communicate decision to the HKEF Executive Committee

9.4.4 **22 May 2023: HKEF Executive Committee confirmation** – the date by which the HKEF will ratify the selection decisions of the TSSC

9.4.5 **23 May 2023: Selection decisions notified to athletes**

9.4.6 **31 May 2023: Entries by name deadline to OC**

At this time, it is not known what substitution rules are in place prior to the start of the competition. Further communication will be circulated to all potential athletes when known.

9.5 **Squad Announcement:** The SF&OC 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.

9.6 In the event that the Organisers or SF&OC amend deadlines for entries submission, this timeline may be amended. All athletes in contention for selection will be notified of any changes immediately.

### **10. POST SELECTION**

10.1. **Team Running Order:** The HKEPP Performance Manager will decide the Team running order (where applicable) and will inform athletes accordingly. The HKEPP Performance Manager and Chef d'Equipe 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, as agreed by the relevant Performance Manager.

10.3 **Substitution:** Subject to confirmation of the substitution rules being confirmed by the OC, 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 start of competition.

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 SF&OC 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 and the Hong Kong Sports Institute) or the HKSAR Government into disrepute.

## 11. COMMUNICATION

11.1 **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.

11.2 **Point of Contact**

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

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 of their respective discipline.

## 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 Secretary General 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 Secretary General of HKEF shall acknowledge receipt of the appeal and will inform the President that an appeal has been received. Generally the Secretary General 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**