



Hong Kong Equestrian Federation 香港馬術總會

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Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

SELECTION POLICY (version 2) – Revised 16 June 2020

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Hong Kong Equestrian Federation (“HKEF”) will make nominations to the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong (“SF&OC”) for the Hong Kong Equestrian Squad (the “Squad”) for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (the “Games”).
- 1.2. The Games are governed by the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”). 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 Eventing discipline and one slot for the Show Jumping discipline.
- 1.4. The Games will take place at the Baji Koen Equestrian Park, Tokyo (the “Venue”) from ~~25-23~~ July to ~~9-9~~ August ~~2020~~2021. This change in competition dates reflect the changes announced by the Organizers in light of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Specifically, Eventing takes place from 31 July to 3 August and Show Jumping from 4 to 8 August. Dates and venue are continue to be 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 combinations for nomination to the Squad that will deliver the best possible results for Hong Kong at the Games in the equestrian disciplines of Eventing and Jumping.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 3.1. It is vitally important for the integrity of the Policy that athletes, owners, performance managers, HKEPP team staff, HKEF committee members, 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 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 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 are appointed by the HKEF Executive Committee and will be free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest, insofar 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 Executive Manager 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 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 satisfying the eligibility requirements of the FEI Regulations and the IOC Olympic Charter in force, including but not limited to Rule 40 (*Participation in the Olympic Games*), Rule 41 (*Nationality of Competitors*) and Rule 43 (*World Anti-doping Code and Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions*).
 - a fully paid up member of the HKEF, eligible to represent Hong Kong in competitions under the rules of the FEI;
 - for Eventing and Jumping, at least 18 years of age (born on or before 31 December ~~2002~~2003);
 - in the case of Eventing horses, being at least 8 years old or above (born on or before 31 December ~~2012~~2013);
 - in the case of Jumping horses, being at least 9 years old or above (born on or before 31 December ~~2011-2012~~ or before);
 - in the case of horses, being registered with the FEI as the property of Owners of the same nationality as the Athlete by ~~15 January 2020~~; the revised date yet to be announced by the FEI;

- having written confirmation from the relevant horse owner (where the athlete is not the owner) that the owner commits to allowing 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.

7. COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Eventing:

The Eventing Competitions will take place over three days in the order of Dressage Test, Cross Country Test, and Jumping Test.

Competition Formula	Level	Participation
Dressage Test	FEI 2020 Olympic Games 5* B test (short)	All
Cross Country Test	Distance: 5700m Time: 10 minutes Speed: 570mpm Number of efforts: 38-42	All
Team Jumping Test	Distance; max 600m Speed: 375mpm Number of efforts: 16 max Height: 125cm	All
Individual Jumping Test	Distance; 360 – 500m Speed: 375mpm Number of efforts: 12 max Height: 130cm	Top 25 placed Athletes

7.2 Jumping:

The Jumping Competition will take place over four days, with one rest day between days two and three. Day one is the First Individual Competition; Day two is the Individual Final. Days three and four are for teams only, and therefore not relevant to this Selection Policy.

Obstacles and other technical requirements	First Individual Competition (qualifier for the Final)	Individual Final
Number of obstacles	12 -14	12 -15
Height	1.40 – 1.65m	1.40 – 1.65m
Width	Up to 2.0m, in proportion	Up to 2.0m, in proportion
Triple bar width	2.20m	2.20m
Number of Combinations	At least 1 Double and 1 Treble, but not more than 2 doubles and one treble	At least 1 Double and 1 Treble, but not more than 2 doubles and one treble
Speed	400m/min	400m/min
Length	500 – 650m	500 – 700m
Table	A - not against the clock	A - against the clock
Jump-off	None	Possible Jump Off for first three place ties
Participation	All	Best 30 placed Athletes from the First Individual Competition

7.5 All competition will be run in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 (24th Edition) 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 and have an FEI Certificate of Capability by 1-22 June 2020 ~~2020~~ 2021 can be considered;

8.1.2 The performance of the Athlete in Olympic Athlete Ranking Qualification events and the associated points earned by the Athlete by the deadline of 31 December 2019;

8.1.3 The performance of the Athlete and Horse combination in the 2020 and 2021 season, with specific relevance given to performance ~~in-in competitions that count towards~~ towards Olympic qualification ~~events~~;

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

8.1.4 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.

8.1.5 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;

8.1.6 The willingness of the Athlete and their owners, grooms, coaches, or other individuals to act as an ambassador for Hong Kong, to uphold the Olympic 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 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**

9.4.1 **28 February 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 ~~1-21 June 2020/2021: Deadline for Minimum Eligibility Requirements – Certificates of capability (COC) required by this date for combinations to be considered for selection~~

9.4.3 22 June 2021: Deadline for Certificates of Capability to be issued by the FEI – Certificates of capability (COC) required by this date for combinations to be considered for selection

9.4.3 ~~1-23 June 2020/2021: TSSC Selection~~ - the date by which the TSSC will make selection and communicate decision to the HKEF Executive Committee

9.4.4 ~~1-23 June 2020/2021: HKEF Executive Committee confirmation~~ – the date by which the HKEF will ratify the selection decisions of the TSSC

9.4.5 **1-23 June 20202021: Deadline to notify the SF&OC the selected combinations.**

9.4.6 **2-24 June 20202021: Selection decisions notified to athletes**

9.4.7 **6-5 July 20202021: Tokyo 2020 Sport Entries Deadline**

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 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.

10.2 **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 Tokyo 2020 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 SF&OC 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 HKEF, 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 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 notice in writing to the Secretary General of the HKEF within 48 hours of being informed of the decision.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 The appeal shall be considered by the President of the HKEF whose decision shall be final.

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