

SELECTION POLICY 2016 WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

This selection policy ('the policy') covers the discipline of Endurance.

1. OBJECTIVE

To select athletes and horses for the Australian team to achieve the best possible results at the FEI 2016 World Senior Endurance Championships (WEC).

2. PROCESS OF SELECTION

Subject to the terms of the Policy and any additional FEI qualification/entry requirements:

- 2.1 The initial process of selection will commence with the current endorsed EA Selection Panels for Endurance (ESP) selecting a long list of horses and athletes from which the 2016 WEC Team will be primarily selected ("Long List").
- 2.2 The ESP will choose the list of athlete and horse combinations primarily, but not necessarily exclusively, from the Long List.
- 2.3 The ESP will choose the 2016 WEC Senior Endurance Championships Team from the Short List.
- 2.4 These criteria 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 these criteria.

3. SUBSTITUTION

- 3.1 Following selection of the WEC Short List / WEC Team, if:
 - 3.1.1 In the opinion of the Chef d'Equipe (in consultation with the Team vet and the Chair of the ESP), there has been a loss of form or fitness by a member of the WEC Short List, the loss of form must be assessed to be likely to be ongoing and affect performance at WEC; or
 - 3.1.2 A member of the WEC Short List contravenes their athlete agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or
 - 3.1.3 A member of the WEC Short List does not meet the requirements outlined in the athlete's agreement;

that member of the WEC Short List may be replaced by another combination meeting the requirements for selection ('a **Substitution**').

4. CONDITIONS OF SELECTION FOR THE LONG & SHORT LISTS (WEC Nominated Entries)

- 4.1 For **Athletes** to be eligible for selection, all athletes must:
- 4.1.1 be a current member of EA, and a State Division of the AERA
 - 4.1.2 be eligible to compete for Australia as per FEI regulations Art. 119;
 - 4.1.3 attend and participate in training clinics and camps as notified in writing, unless a written exemption has been granted by the Chef d'Equipe, in response to a timely written request from the athlete for an exemption;
 - 4.1.4 undertake training and competition program recommended by the National Coach or Chef d'Equipe after consultation with the athlete where requested by the National Coach or Chef d'Equipe; where a National Coach has not been appointed any requests and directions to the athletes will be directed by the ESP, or their nominated representative such as Chef d'Equipe.
 - 4.1.5 make their horse(s) available for examination at the request of the Veterinarian nominated by EA and the ESP and accept and implement the recommendations of the Veterinarian; if required under the specific discipline selection criteria.
 - 4.1.6 not have used or administered any substance that, if it had been detected as being present in the Athlete's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted Doping as defined in the EA Anti-Doping Policy;
 - 4.1.7 sign the applicable Athlete Agreement;
 - 4.1.8 satisfy any additional preconditions advised in writing to the athlete by EA and the ESP prior to or at the time of selection; 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 and AERA into public disrepute or censure.
- 4.2 For **Horses** to be eligible for selection, all horses must:
- 4.2.1 be registered with EA or should the horse be permanently domiciled in a country other than Australia, a current FEI passport administered by either EA or the horse's host country.
 - 4.2.2 have passed a veterinary examination from a Veterinarian as nominated by the ESP and EA and;
 - 4.2.3 not have breached the requirements of the EA or FEI Anti-Doping & Medication Control Policies.

4.3 Owners

In order for the horse and athlete combination to be selected, EA must have received from the owner(s) of the nominated horse a signed copy of the 2016 EA Horse Owner Agreement no later than one week prior to the date of the announcement of the Short List, or earlier if requested by EA and the ESP. This agreement defines the rights and obligations of the owner(s) of the selected horse(s) and EA. Owners of horses on the Short List will be provided with the 2016 EA Horse Agreement prior to the date for selection. 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 2016 WEC

4.4 General Requirements for Selection

- 4.4.1 Subject to the terms of this policy, the EA Endurance Selection Panel will select athlete and horse combinations according to the selection criteria. Reserve combinations will also be identified by EA and may be part of the 2016 WEC Senior Endurance Championships Team, where reserve horses may be included in the Team as permitted by the FEI Participation and Qualification Criteria.
- 4.4.2 The Short List for the 2016 WEC Senior Endurance Championships will consist of athlete and horse combinations nominated by EA to the FEI as Nominated Entries as per FEI qualification and entry requirements.

5. DISCRETIONARY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Giving Consideration to Extenuating Facts and Circumstances

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 extenuating factors.

- 5.1.1 Athletes unable to compete at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy must advise the nominated National Committee representative of this fact, and the reasons, in writing, before the commencement of the activity or as soon as practicable.
- 5.1.2 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.
- 5.1.3 In the case of illness or soundness problems of the horse, the horse may be required to undergo a veterinary examination by a Veterinarian nominated by the Chef d'Equipe or ESP.

- 5.1.4 In the case of bereavement, equipment failure, travel delays, quarantine factors or other extenuating circumstances, the Selection Panel will make a decision on a case by case basis.

6. ADDITIONS TO THE WEC LONG LIST

The ESP may, in their absolute discretion, add a horse and athlete combination to the Long List at any stage subject to the combination satisfying the relevant selection criteria.

7. REMOVAL FROM A LONG LIST

Athletes who:

- 7.1 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 Veterinarian); or
- 7.2 contravene the FEI or EA Codes of Conduct, FEI Veterinary Regulations or EA Rules and policies; or
- 7.3 do not sign the National Team Athlete or Horse Owner Agreement; or
- 7.4 do not meet any other stated requirement, may be removed from the Long List.

8. APPEALS

- 8.1 Appeals concerning non-selection of athletes and horses will be heard by an EA Appeal Tribunal in accordance with the EA Appeal By-Laws.
- 8.2 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. Athlete and/or horse substitutions made in accordance with the rules of the competition, following definite entries to the FEI, cannot be appealed.
- 8.2 Appeals may only be made against the selection of the team to be submitted by EA for 'Definite Entries' as per FEI Guidelines. Athletes may not appeal their non-inclusion on the Long or short-list.
- 8.3 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 CEO of EA within three (3) working days from the date of the announcement of the WEC Team.

9. SELECTION CRITERIA

This Selection Criteria as set by the FEI as referenced in Article numbers below must be read in conjunction with the requirements of the EA Selection Policy sections one to seven. Athletes should familiarize themselves with all the requirements of these documents.

9.1 Qualification (Ref. FEI Art. 816.3.3 and 816.3.9)

Qualification criteria for Seniors:

The horse must be at least 8 years of age.

FEI Art 815.2.4 For 4-Stars, CEIOs and Championships (excluding Young Horse Championships where the minimum age must be 7years) horses must be at least 8 years of age.

Horses:

- Art 816.3.9 Horses must have graduated through the qualifying processes outlined above for Novice and CEI-Star qualifying up to, and including, the distance of the event for which a Certificate of Capability is sought.
- Art 816.3.10 Horses must have successfully completed at least 3 CEI 2* events or higher.
- Art 816.3.11 Of these 3 CEI events, at least one must be at the, minimum speed of 14 kph, and the same distance and time frame as the 4-Star Championship and achieved no earlier than 24 months prior to, no later than the close of nominated entries for Championship and/or 60 days prior to the event, which ever comes first. This one ride must be in combination with the nominated Athlete unless that Athlete is a Senior Elite Endurance Athlete. In such cases, the horse can be ridden by any other applicable Athlete.

Athletes:

The athlete must be turning 14 years of age in 2016, or older.

- Art 815.1** Any person from the year in which he/she reaches his/her 14th birthday and who is duly authorised by his/her National Federation is eligible to take part in all Endurance Rides (CEIs, CEIOs and Championships – Senior and Junior/Young Rider).
- Art 816.3.12 To achieve Senior Elite Athlete status, Athletes must have successfully completed a minimum of ten CEI 3* 160km events or higher. To maintain Senior Elite Athlete status, Athletes must successfully complete at least one CEI3* 160 km within every successive 24 months.
- Art 816.3.13 Riders who receive any form of a suspension as defined under the FEI General Regulations (Penalties) or have committed an offense under the FEI Equine Anti Doping and Control Medication regulations, will automatically

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lose their Elite Status and will be required to re-qualify again by completing ten CEI3* events commencing either after the period of suspension or after the 'fast track' decision is finalised.

- Art 816.3.14 Athletes must have graduated through the qualifying processes outlined above for Novice and CEI-Star qualifying up to, and including, the distance of the event for which a Certificate of Capability is sought.
- Art 816.3.15 Athletes must have successfully completed at least 5 CEI 2* events or higher
- Art 816.3.16 Of those 5 CEI events, one must be at the minimum speed of 14 kph and the same distance, weight and time frame as the 4* Championship, achieved no earlier than 24 months prior to, no later than the close of nominated entries for Championship and/or 60 days prior to the event, whichever comes first. This one ride must be in combination with the nominated horse unless that Athlete is a Senior Elite Endurance Athlete.

In addition to the above FEI qualification requirements, the following shall be included in ranking applicants for selection:

9.2 Riders

- 9.2.1 Higher selection ranking will be given to those riders who have demonstrated and proven competitive riding record. Ranking will be prioritised for successful completions in competitive CEI2* and 3* and CEN 120km (or further) Vet Gate Into Hold (VGIH) rides.
- 9.2.2 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.
- 9.2.3 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 CEI2* or CEI3* at ≥ 15 kph. It is recommended that the rider gains experience competing in the Middle East or in conditions similar to Middle East competition.
- 9.2.4 Ranking points will be reduced for eliminations at any endurance rides in the preceding 24 months.

9.3 Horses

- 9.3.1 Higher selection ranking will be given to horses which have successfully completed high level, fast rides. Ranking will be prioritised for successful completions in competitive CEI2* and 3* and CEN 120km (or further) VGIH rides. Higher selection ranking will be given for successful rides at speeds > 15 kph, and more for >18 kph.
- 9.3.2 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 ride. Preference will be given to horses achieving top 10% completion 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 CEI2* or CEI3* at ≥ 15 kph.

Fast recovery times at vet gates will also be considered in the horse's overall performance. Ranking points will be reduced for eliminations at any endurance rides in the preceding 24 months.

9.4 ESP Discretion

The objective of this policy is to select horse and athlete combinations that the ESP believes will achieve the best possible result at the 2016 WEC Senior Endurance Championships. The term 'best possible result' covers both an individual and a team result but must be based on the realistic expectation that a team finishes in **Top Five placings** and individuals in the **Top Ten placing**.

If the ESP does 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 ESP, then individual combinations may be nominated for the 2016 WEC Senior Endurance Championships.

9.5 Competition Criteria

To be eligible for consideration for selection, athlete and horse combinations are to have achieved the competition criteria as follows:

- 9.5.1 Have successfully qualified as per 9.1 FEI Qualifications Procedure for 2016 WEC Senior Endurance Championships;
- 9.5.2 Have further experience at FEI/VGIH competitions additional to the qualifying procedures.

A veterinary certificate issued by the National Committee Nominated Veterinarian or a medical certificate is required in order to receive dispensation by the Selection Panel from any of the above conditions. The veterinary or medical certificate must be received by EA PRIOR to the start of the competition.

Unforeseen circumstances, including those outside of the control of the athlete, may also qualify for dispensation in the sole discretion of the Selection Panel. (Refer item 4.1.b of the Equestrian Australia Selection Policy).

In exceptional circumstances, the competition criteria may be modified.

9.6 General Criteria

In considering the performances of combinations that have met the competition criteria, the Selection Panel will take into account the following general criteria.

- 9.6.1 The ESP has discretion to place a greater emphasis on one or more of the general criteria in considering combinations for selection.

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- 9.6.2 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 **2014-2016**.
- 9.6.3 Placings at all competitions within the Qualification Period will be considered but do not automatically position one athlete above another in terms of selection.
- 9.6.4 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.
- 9.6.5 Selectors 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.
- 9.6.6 The age, soundness and fitness of the horse will be taken into consideration.
- 9.6.7 It is recognised that competitiveness at endurance requires an effective team of 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 to work cooperatively, demonstrate respect and behave appropriately; and
 - commit to their best possible performance at WEC and best possible outcome for Australia.
- 9.6.8 The Athlete must attend events and clinics as requested by ESP and/or Chef D’Equipe
- 9.6.9 The Athlete must provide information and make themselves and horse/s available as requested by ESP and/or Chef D’Equipe and/or Team Veterinarian in a timely manner.
- 9.6.10 Unless given written permission by Chef D’Equipe or ESP and only to the extent of such permission, provide the information as required in the attached Endurance Selector Panel Information Protocol.

10. KEY DATES

Qualification Period for WEC: Start: **10th December 2014** End: **11th October 2016**

The Long List will be announced on or before: **30th March 2016**

The Short List will be announced on or before **25th June 2016**.

WEC Senior Endurance Championships Team will be announced on or before **20th September 2016**