WESTERN CAPE DRESSAGE

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

ADULTS 2024

Inter-Provincial Team Selection

The procedures below will be used for WC Dressage team selection.

Objective

This procedure has been developed to ensure that the best possible team is selected. We therefore need to identify the best horse and rider combinations for the level of test required. This entails:

1 APPOINTMENT OF THE PANEL OF SELECTORS.

1.1 Selectors are appointed by the Western Cape Dressage Council (WCDC)

There are at least 3 selectors for each age group. The selectors are as far as possible chosen to avoid possible conflicts of interest and will immediately declare such a conflict if it becomes apparent. The selectors are appointed to identify the most competent team to the best of their ability and without prejudice.

1.2 Criteria for appointment

1.2.1 At the start of each calendar year the WCDC will appoint a minimum of 3 team selectors for each team (adults, juniors and pony riders).

1.2.2 Members of the selection panel must meet the following criteria:

- Be knowledgeable and qualified in the discipline;
- Be available to attend many of the events in order to observe performance;
- Be familiar with the selection criteria for the discipline;
- Ideally, not have any affiliation with any prospective team member. However, as the dressage community is small, this is sometimes unavoidable. In an instance where a selector could have a vested interest in a potential team member that selector will be excluded from any decisions regarding that potential team member.

1.2.3 The panel must ensure that they have a convener from the WCDC. The convener will be responsible for the procedural correctness on the day of selection.

1.2.4 2023 Team Selection Panel appointment

The 2023 Team Selection Panel comprise of:

- **Janice Barrett – National B Panel judge**
- **Heletta Marais – Provincial A Panel judge**

- **Audrey De Vries - Provincial A Panel judge**

The Team Selection Panel may be subject to change, but the team nominees will be advised of any such change.

2 TEAM SELECTION

2.1 Team member eligibility

2.1.1 A potential team member is anyone who:

- Is eligible to ride at SA Champs or any other show for which Provincial Colours may be awarded in terms of the show schedule and the rules;
- IS willing to travel to the venue of the championship at their own cost;
- Is interested in being part of the Western Cape Team (WCT);
- Has completed a Capability Form.

2.2 Team trials prior to selection

2.2.1 At the discretion of WCDC there can be trials for each age category, the dates of which shall be announced by the WCDC as soon as possible before the final date on which the team will be announced. The trials may be conducted by monitoring a class at a specific show, or performance at a specific show in different grades or the potential team members will be required to ride the team test at a venue chosen by the selectors.

2.2.2 2024 Team selection trials

The 2024 Show Dates set aside for Team Selection trials are:
(it is recommended you attend a minimum of 2 of the selected shows below)

- **SDRC** **DSA Challenge 4/5 May**
- **De Ja Vu** **1/2 June**
- **MISTICO** **8 June**
- **Europa** **15/16 June**
- **SDRC** **22 June**
- **VRC** **29 June**

In addition, a further date for team trials in July may be set aside for a team test to be ridden.

The above may be subject to change but all team nominees will be advised of such change.

2.3 Competitive history

2.3.1 The competitive history of the horse and rider combination over the last competition year will also be considered, focusing on **both the quality and consistency of performance, with special emphasis placed on recent performance.** These results will be procured by the selectors once all capability forms have been received.

2.4 Selectors' Authority

2.4.1 Once competitive history and team trial performance have been considered, as described above, the selectors will make their decision based on their best assessment of the horse and rider combinations that have the most likely ability to contribute most positively to the team score. **As such, Rider Rankings cannot be considered conclusive in deciding whether a specific horse and rider combination will be included in a team.**

2.4.2 The selection process is at the sole discretion of the selectors and the decision of the selectors is final. The selectors reserve the right to include any eligible Western Cape member of Dressage SA into the Western Cape Team irrespective of recent performance history or trial attendance.

2.4.3 Horses in all grades from Medium upwards may be considered for the Open team based on their performance stipulated in sections 2.3 and 2.4.1 above and pursuant to the selectors' rights and duties as stipulated in sections 2.4.2 and 4 below.

3 CAPABILITY FORMS

3.1 Capability Forms

3.1.1 Capability Forms must be emailed or handed on the due date to the selection convener as indicated on the form. Prospective team members must submit their Capability Forms by the deadline stipulated. This form amongst other things indicates to the selectors the willingness and ability to attend the championships. **The submission of the form also ensures that the prospective team member agrees to abide by the selectors' decision.**

3.1.2 The WCDC will ensure that all results for the horse/rider combination, who submitted capability forms, are available.

3.1.3 2024 capability form submission dates

Capability forms must be emailed to **wcdressagerankings@gmail.com** for the Judges and selectors Panel of WC Dressage before the **21 June 2024.**

4 SELECTOR'S RIGHTS AND DUTIES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

4.1 Possibility of the various potential members to achieve scores **of 65% and above** in their respective grades and compare this to their performance in the team tests.

4.2 The detailed results obtained in the three months including those results from the arranged rides of team tests preceding the selection must be studied in great detail as this will establish current form and will weigh heavily with selectors in their deliberation.

4.3 Soundness of horse is taken into account, as is its temperament and reliability. Selectors may appoint a veterinarian to check the horse for soundness and use the opinion of the vet in their deliberations. Any refusal to this examination may be used in any deliberation as well.

4.4 Having a horse in a higher grade does not necessarily ensure a greater chance of selection.

4.5 The temperament and reliability of the riders are considered as well as their suitability as team members. Previous disciplinary actions against riders for rule infringement, rudeness, cruelty, etc. are a consideration, as is any behaviour that is not sportsman-like and is unbecoming to the sport.

4.6 The selectors may require all short-listed horses and riders to compete in one last selection show or selection day. (If a combination is unable to make the show/selection day, arrangements could be made to view that combination on a different day. A rider/horse should not be excluded because they cannot make the selection day provided there is adequate reason acceptable to the selectors.)

4.7 The selection day may also be used to establish soundness and wellness of the horse (also see above).

4.8 The selectors will discuss their findings and opinions before reaching a final decision.

4.9 The selectors will, at least 5 days before the close of entries for that particular championship, advise the WCDC in writing of their selection. (**Five riders compromising 4 team members & 1 reserve and five/six horses).**

4.10 This information will then immediately be made available to the selected team members.

4.11 Riders who are selected as members of a team must be able to conduct themselves in a sportsmanship-like manner and be able to show that they support good team spirit. They are ambassadors for the sport and for Western Cape Dressage. A code of conduct will be signed by them before being awarded Colours.

4.12 Five rider and horse combinations are selected annually for the Inter-Provincial Dressage Team Championship. **The 5th rider chosen will be the reserve for the team** and will be called up by the chef d'équipe and approved by the selectors only in extraordinary circumstances like lameness, illness etc. A sixth horse only may be selected. (*This is normally only appropriate where a selected rider has a second horse of the required standard*).

4.13 Whilst transparency in criteria applied for selection is a requirement, the deliberation of the selectors is confidential and not to be disclosed by any selector.

4.14 The selector's decision when ratified by the WCDC is final.

5 DUTIES AFTER THE SELECTION

5.1 Formality Requirements

WCDC will:

5.1.1 Appoint a chef d'équipe;

5.1.2 Timeously notify team members, the chef d'équipe and the Dressage SA ("DSA") office at the same time as to whom the team comprises;

5.1.3 Timeously supply DSA and the show holding body with a written list of team members plus chef d'équipe. *In the case of Juniors and Children, WCDC will confirm that the candidates have not been selected for too many other disciplines.*

5.2 Team Requirements

WCDC will notify all team members/parents and other respective parties:

5.2.1 Congratulating them on their selection as either team members or team reserve;

5.2.2 Advising then as to when and where Colours will be presented;

5.2.3 Reminding them of the fact that 5 team members will be selected for the team event comprising four team riders and a 5th rider as team reserve;

5.2.4 Advising riders that the behaviour of riders, their family and instructors should be exemplary and sportsmanlike and worthy of representing their Province;

5.2.5 Advising that WCDC will organise any team clothing required and give the clothing to the chef d'equipe for distribution;

5.2.6 Advising the riders on the short list who did not make it into the final team who the team is and congratulating them for making the short list;

5.2.7 Thanking the selectors;

5.2.8 Ensuring the WCDC invites all team riders, family and selectors to the Colours Evening;

5.2.9 Notifying DSA and the Show Holding Body of any changes to the team;

5.2.10 Sending letter of congratulations to the team members and chef d'equipe after the show;

5.2.11 Dealing with any queries regarding the selection process. The substantive decision will be final but queries can be directed to the Dressage Chairman only on process concerns.

5.3 Duties of the chef d'équipe:

Soon after announcing the Provincial Team, the WCDC will appoint a chef d'équipe who is knowledgeable and qualified in the discipline, able to advise, a team leader and able to take charge of the team, respected for his/her integrity and impartiality and preferably should not have any affiliation to any team member. The chef d'équipe will:

5.3.1 Be familiar with the dates, venues and timetable of the event;

5.3.2 Be familiar with the riders and horses in the team, as well as be up to date with their past performances;

5.3.3 Be fully conversant with all DSA dressage rules as well as the SAEF general regulations especially the section on Inter–Provincial Team Championships;

5.3.4 Observe the potential team at all qualifying competitions at the Championship event;

5.3.5 Distribute any team clothing and take responsibility to collect and return the WC team equipment (e.g. brow bands, numnahs, flags and grooms' overalls);

5.3.6 Attend the Colours evening, giving support to the team. Arrange any entertainment or dinner prior to or during the event;

5.3.7 Ensure that all team members are present for the final nominations;

5.3.8 Advise the selectors of extra ordinary circumstances for their approval to call up the reserve to compete in the team event;

5.3.9 If for medical reasons more than one rider/horse combination is not able to compete, then any further selection must be deferred to the WCDC Chairman who will confer with the selectors to find a solution;

5.3.10 Decide on the final order of riding and submit this at nomination time at the show usually the evening before the event as per the SAEF regulations;

5.3.11 Ensure the well-being of the team and act as a mentor. Maintain a good team spirit and morale;

5.3.12 Act as an ambassador for WC as well as for the dressage discipline.

6. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MEMBERS

Once selected, each team member is responsible for:

6.1 Organizing his/her own transport and accommodation for the show;

6.2 Being available for any team practices or get-togethers;

6.3 Attending the Colours Ceremony;

6.4 Immediately notifying the chef d'équipe of any unsoundness or illness of his/her horse/pony and any poor health he/she may have;

6.5 Ensuring that his/her horse is in good condition and well turned out, and that tack and equipment are clean and in good condition;

6.6 Ensuring that he/she gives themself enough time to warm-up the horse before classes;

6.7 Attending all social events organized by the Host Province at the show;

6.8 Being gracious at all times;

6.9 If you are selected as the reserve, remember that it is an honour to carry the flag. So, if you are asked to carry the flag, do so happily and with pride for WCD and the team;

6.10 Always acting with good sportsmanship and to be ambassadors for WCD. Unfortunately, there has been occasion when the behaviour of a team member or a person associated with the team member has created unpleasantness, not only for WC, dressage, the organizers and selectors, but also for other team members and morale in general. It is neither becoming of the sport nor does it reflect well on the complainant.

The above requirements apply equally to all persons associated with team members (e.g. instructors, parents, supporters). Failure to comply can result in a rider having his/her colors rescinded and/or face disciplinary procedures.

7. SELECTION OF LOWER TEAMS (ONE NOVICE TEAM AND ONE COMBINED ELEMENTARY AND ELEMENTARY MEDIUM TEAM)

7.1 The selection committee remain the same for the Novice Team and Elementary/Elementary-Medium Team as for the Open Team;

7.2 Selectors will assess the horse and rider's performance over the last 6 months;

7.3 Such teams may be selected after the close of entry for the Interprovincial Competition so that selectors can be certain that the horse and rider combinations are entered in the correct class and registered in the correct grade;

7.4 The selected teams will then be notified via email or telephone;

7.5 Lower teams will not be eligible for WC Colours according to the Colours Policy of WCEF. They will receive a WC recognition pin.