WESTERN CAPE DRESSAGE

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

Inter-Provincial Team Selection

The procedures below will be used for WP 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. A reserve selector will step in if there is a conflict of interests (*for example when one of the selectors has a pupil contending for the team*). 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).

2. Members of the panel must meet with 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, they should 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.

2 TEAM SELECTION

2.1 Team trials prior to selection

2.1.1 There are 2 trials for each age category, the dates of which shall be announced by the WCDC at least 3 months before the final date on which the team will be announced. The trails 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. A potential team member is anyone who:

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

2.1.2 Unless extraordinary circumstances prevail, a prospective team member shall attend at least 1 of these trials.

2.2 Shows relevant to selection

The competitive history of the horse and/or rider combination over the last competition year will be taken into account, with special emphasis placed on recent performance. These results will be procured by the selectors once all capability forms have been received.

2.3 Selectors' Authority

2.3.1 Once competitive history and team trial performance has been taken into account, the selectors will make their decision. The selectors, however, reserve the right to include any Western Cape member of Dressage SA into the Western Cape Team – irrespective of their recent performance history or trial attendance. The selection process is at the sole discretion of the selectors.

2.3.2 Horses in all grades from Elementary Medium upwards may be considered based on their performance of the team test at team trials.

3 CAPABILITY FORMS

3.1 Capability forms

3.1.1 Capability Forms must be emailed or handed on the due date referred to therein and 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. The following information must also be made available to the selectors

4 SELECTOR'S RIGHTS AND DUTIES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

4.1 Possibility of the various potential members to achieve scores of 60% 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 behavior that is not sportsman-like and 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 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 Colors.

4.12 Five rider and horse combinations are selected annually for the Inter-Provincial Dressage Team Championship. 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:

1. Appoint a chef d'équipe;

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

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 to confirm that the candidates have not been selected for too many other disciplines.*

5.2 Team Requirements

WCDC to notify all team members/parents:

5.2.1 Congratulating them on their selection;

5.2.2 Advising when and where colors will be presented;

5.2.3 Remind riders of the fact that only four riders will be selected to ride in the team event;

5.2.4 Remind riders that the selection of the four riders will be at the sole discretion of the chef d'équipe whose decision will be final;

5. Advise riders that the behavior of riders, their family and instructors should be exemplary and sportsmanlike and worthy of representing their Province;

6. Organize any team clothing required and give the clothing to the chef d'équipe for distribution;

7. Advise the short list riders not in the team who the team is and congratulate them for making the short list;

8. Thank the selectors;

9. Ensure WCDC invites all team riders, family and selectors to the Colors Evening;

10. Notify DSA and the Show Holding Body of any changes to the team;

11. Send letter of congratulations to team members and chef d'équipe after show;

12. Deal 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:

WCDC will appoint a chef d'équipe soon after announcing the Provincial Team, who is knowledgeable and qualified in the discipline and 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:

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

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

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

4. Attend the Colors Evening giving support to the team;

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);

6. Arrange any entertainment or dinner prior to or during the event;

7. Observe the potential team at all qualifying competitions at the championship event prior to choosing the final team;

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

9. Choose the final team from the selected riders/horses based on performance and results from any qualifying event and based on the selection criteria agreed upon;

5.3.10 If for medical reasons more than one rider/horse combinations are 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;

11. 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;

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

13. Act as an ambassador for WC as well as for the dressage discipline;

14. Preferably not have a clash of interest when deciding on the final team, and as this is sometimes unavoidable, refer the final team selection with regards to the rider that such clash exists to the selection committee for confirmation with a proper written submission containing reasons for such decision.

6. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MEMBERS

Once selected, each team members are responsible for:

6.1 Organizing their own transport and accommodation for the show;

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

6.3 Attending the Colors Ceremony;

6.4 Immediately notifying the chef d'équipe of any unsoundness or illness of your horse/pony and any poor health you may have;

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

6.6 Ensuring that you give yourself enough time to warm-up your 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 honor to carry the flag. So, if you are asked to carry the flag, do so happily and with pride for WC and the team;

6.10 Always acting with good sportsmanship and to be ambassadors for WC. Unfortunately, there has been occasion when the behavior 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

7.1 The selectors remain the same for other teams but for the Open Team to be sent to an Inter Provincial Championships for which Colors are not awarded.

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 and announced on centerline.

7.5 Lower teams will not be eligible for WC Colors according to the Colors Policy of WCEF.