SELECTION PROCESS DOCUMENT FOR TEAM SOUTH AFRICA
Dressage (including Para Dressage)

World Championship 2026
Aachen, Germany

Subject to Ratification

1. INTRODUCTION

The South African Equestrian Federation (SAEF) will through its member Discipline Associations (DA) qualify and select athletes to represent South Africa at the 2026 World Championships Aachen (GER) from the 10th to 23rd August 2026 including Para Equestrian Dressage.

This document details the Selection Process that will be followed by each of the Discipline Associations who have confirmed that they wish to qualify and select athletes for 2026 Aachen (GER).

2. OBJECTIVE

Whilst the primary objective of participating at the World Championships Aachen (GER) is to achieve the best possible results (both team and individual), the SAEF has also set the following secondary objectives for participating at World Championships

- To continue to streamline and document the administrative, logistics and selection processes for participating at major international events such as the World Championships, the Olympic Games etc.
- To benchmark the performance level of Olympic and Paralympic equestrian sport in South Africa against the level of other nations and OC Groups, to establish the base level for long term development plans etc.
- To allow the athletes, support teams and officials of Team South Africa (Team SA) to interact with their peers from other nations

The Selection Process to be followed by each DA's will select the athletes and horses to best achieve the primary and secondary objectives.

3. ELIGIBILTY FOR SELECTION FOR TEAM SOUTH AFRICA

1. Whilst each of the DA's may have their own specific eligibility criteria, for an athlete to be eligible for selection for Team SA they must at the commencement of the selection process (i.e. Expression of Interest cutoff date):

   i) Be a South African citizen
   ii) Be the holder of a valid and current South African passport, and must meet the requirements necessary to obtain the valid Visa for the duration of Aachen (GER) 2026.
   iii) Be eligible to compete for South Africa as per FEI regulations Art 119
   iv) Be a registered member of the SAEF.
   v) Be a current member in good standing of the Discipline Association for which they wish to be considered for selection.
   vi) Compete on a horse that is registered with the SAEF and FEI.
   vii) Satisfy the FEI discipline specific minimum eligibility criteria (within the timeframe published by the FEI) for the discipline that the athlete wishes to be considered for.
   viii) Be able to attend and participate in training clinics and camps as notified in writing, unless a written exemption has been granted by the SAEF, in response to a timely written request from the athlete for an exemption.
   ix) Be willing to make their horse(s) available for examination at a time and location reasonably requested by the Team Vet and accept and implement the reasonable recommendations made by the Team Vet
   x) Maintain a concise veterinary log that must be available for inspection as and when requested. The log must note all treatments and administration of meds, inoculations etc. for the period of 18 months preceding the commencement of World Championships 2026.

xi) For a period of 18 months preceding the commencement of Aachen (GER) 2026 not have used, administered, or allow to be administered any substance that, if it had been detected as being present in the Athlete's or Horse's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted a positive drug violation as defined by the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport ("SAIDS") and/or the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), and/or the SAEF Anti-Doping Policy, unless such medication was necessary and administered by a veterinarian and was duly recorded and the required authorities notified.

xii) Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the SAEF that they or their horse(s) are not suffering any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing at Aachen(GER) 2026 to the highest possible standard, including the passing of a medical examination to the satisfaction of a suitably qualified medical practitioner appointed by the SAEF

xiii) Be willing to sign the SAEF National Team Athletes agreement by the published cutoff date

xiv) Have acted at all times during the qualifying period (i.e. from 1 January 2025), up to and during the event (Aachen 2026) in such a manner so as to not bring the athlete, the DA or the SAEF into public disrepute or censure.

xv) Satisfy any additional preconditions advised in writing to the athlete by the SAEF prior to or at the time of selection for Aachen(GER) 2026 Nominated Entries

xvi) The following documents have to be submitted

1 – Criminal Record Check

2 – Certificate of completion Safeguarding Awareness Course

3 – Certificate of Completion WADA(World Anti-Doping Agency)

2. For Horses to be eligible for selection for Team SA, all horses must:

i) Be registered with the SAEF

ii) At a date to be determined have passed a veterinary examination to the satisfaction of the Team Vet

iii) Not have breached the requirements of the SAEF or FEI Anti-Doping and Medication Control policies during the World Championships 2026 qualifying period (i.e. from 1 January 2025), unless such medication used was necessary and prescribed for treatment, administered by a veterinarian, duly recorded and the required authorities notified.

iv) Be made available for selection by their owner/s signing a copy of the SAEF Horse Owner Agreement

4. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

a) In the event of any form of dispute the athlete is to follow the dispute resolution process as per the constitution of the Discipline Association that the athlete is a member of.

b) Only when all the dispute resolution processes of the athlete's Discipline Association have been concluded may the athlete escalate the matter to the SAEF.

c) A horse owner may not raise any form of dispute with the SAEF or it's members.

The Discipline Association Constitutions are at all times subordinate to the SAEF Constitution

Dressage SA Association Team Selection Process for World Championships Aachen (GER) 2026

Overview

The following document outlines the selection policy, process and timeline that will be followed in order that Dressage SA will fairly and transparently select athletes and horse combinations that are able to achieve the best possible results in team and/or individual capacities at World Championship Aachen (GER) 2026.

Definitions

Athlete	The rider only
Combination	Combination of a Horse and Athlete
DSA	Dressage Association of South Africa (Dressage SA)
DSA Squad	Combinations selected to remain in consideration for the DSA Team
DSA Para Squad	Combinations selected to remain in consideration for the DSA Para Tea
DSA Team	The DSA Team shall consist of 3 Combinations, OR up to 2 Individual Combinations should insufficient Combinations be selected for a full Team.
DSA Para Team	The DSA Para Team shall consist of 3 Team Combinations. At least one team member shall be an eligible athlete in either sport class Grade I or Grade II or Grade III. A Team may not include more than two (2) athletes from any one (1) grade .
FEI	Federation Equestre Internationale
MQR	FEI Minimum Qualification Criteria
QR	DSA Qualifying Round.
SAEF	South African Equestrian Federation
Selectors	The Appointed Selectors of DSA.
Selection Process	The process which will commence on 1st January 2025 to select the DSA Team/s

Timeline

The Selection Process will follow a reducing participation format, where on:

01 January 2025	FEI Qualifying period commences
1 January 2026	Closing date for submission to DSA and SAEF of “Expression of Interest” forms
4 July 2026	Closing date for submission to DSA and SAEF of signed Athlete Agreement
4 July 2026	Closing date for submission to DSA and SAEF of signed Horse Owner Agreement
1 June 2026	DSA Squads (incl Para) long list qualifying criteria cutoff date
5 June 2026	DSA Squads (incl Para) long list announcement
4 July 2026	DSA Squad (incl Para) Short List announced
6 July 2026	Nominated Entries to be submitted to FEI
TBC	Certificate of Capability to be submitted to FEI
27 July 2026	Definite Entries to be submitted to FEI
TBC	FEI Qualifying period closes
TBC	DSA selectors select and nominate for Team SA
TBC	Team SA Announced

Selection Committee

Appointment: The Selection Committee is chosen by the DSA executive.
Requirements: Members must be of high repute with the requisite knowledge and experience, be unbiased, and exercise their responsibilities independently and transparent.
Composition: The committee will consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) Selectors, plus a convenor. All members must be available to discuss the selection process as needed.

The selection committee will be made up of the following members:

Convenor: Carol Oberem
1 – Kate Laird
2 - Adriaan van Wyk
3- Carla Jacobs

General Selection Process Conditions

There is no funding available at this stage, so very important to note that you must arrange your own funding.

At all times throughout the Selection Process, all athletes must:

1) Be able and willing to undertake any training and competition programs recommended by the National Coach or Selectors after consultation with the athlete, unless a written exemption has been granted by DSA in response to a timely written request from the athlete for an exemption;
2) Be willing to make their horse(s) available for examination at a time and location reasonably requested by the Selectors or the Team Vet, and accept and implement the reasonable recommendations of the Team Vet, or a suitably qualified veterinarian nominated by the Selectors;
3) Provide to DSA accurate and up-to-date information as and when requested
4) Satisfy any additional preconditions advised in writing to the athlete by DSA prior to or at the time of selection for the DSA Teams;
5) Notify DSA should the combination (rider or horse) suffer any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing at World Championships 2026 to the highest possible standard

Selectors Evaluation Process

In evaluating the performances of Combinations; the Selectors will take into account, and have the discretion to place a greater emphasis on one or more of the following when considering Combinations for selection:

1) (1a) Primarily consider performances of Combinations at CDI3*/4*/5* events from January 2025 onwards, although performances prior to 2025 may also be considered
   (1b) Primarily consider performances of the Para Dressage Combinations at CPEDI 3* or above events from 1 January 2025 onwards, but 2024 Paralympics performances will also be considered.

2) The Selectors may at their sole discretion place greater emphasis on results achieved at Nominated and Mandatory events;
3) Placings in any head-to-head performances will be considered but will not automatically position one athlete above another when considered for selection;
4) Competition-based factors will be taken into consideration when assessing each athlete's performance. These include, but are not limited to:
   a) The performance of the Athlete relative to the quality and number of competitors in the event;
   b) The level of the Judges on the Ground Jury;
   c) The quality of the riding by an athlete;
   d) The general conditions under which the performance is achieved, such as the weather and external conditions; and
   e) The suitability of the Athlete for World Championships 2026, taking into account the team objectives,

the expected conditions and/or individual competition.

5) The ability and experience of the athlete to compete successfully at high-level international competition. Consideration will be given to:
   a) The ability of athletes to perform under the stress and pressure of Olympic Games and/or World Championship;
   b) The ability of athletes to prepare their horse to peak condition for a major campaign;
   c) The ability of athletes to contribute towards an effective team environment, and
   d) The demonstrated ability of athletes that they are suitable representatives of South Africa.
6) Consistency of performance and form to contribute towards a team score

DSA Team Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for selection for the DSA Team at World Championship 2026, each Athlete and/or Horse must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be eligible for selection for the SAEF Team SA in terms of the published SAEF criteria;
2. By 1 January 2026 have submitted to DSA the athlete "Expression of Interest" forms;
3. By 4 June 2026 have signed and submitted to DSA the SAEF Athlete Agreement and Horse Owner agreement.

DSA Squad Long List – 1 June 2026

Eligible Athletes should meet the following requirements by 1 June 2026 to progress to the DSA Squad Long List:

1. Complete either a FEI CDI 3*,4* or 5*/CDI-W or CDIO event during the period 1 January 2025 – 1 June 2026 with at least 2 x minimum score of 66% in a FEI Grand Prix test
2. Para Dressage combinations to complete either a CPEDI 3* or above event during the 1 January 2025 – 1 June 2026 with a minimum score 64% score attributed by the Ground Jury in a Para Grand Prix A test or Para Grand Prix B test in their respective grade at one time

Should more than 10 Athletes meet the DSA Dressage Squad and Para Dressage Squad requirements, the Selectors will select the 10 most appropriate athletes for the Squads as per the Selectors Evaluation Process.

Should less than 10 athletes meet the DSA Squads requirements, the Selectors may, at their discretion, add additional Athletes from the Eligible Athletes to a maximum of 10 Athletes as per the Selectors Evaluation Process.

The DSA Dressage and Para Dressage Squads Long Lists will be announced by 1 June 2026.

DSA Squad Short List

The DSA Squad Short List of 6 Combinations for Dressage and Para Dressage respectively will be selected from the DSA Squad Long List of Combinations, who by 4 July 2026 have met the following qualifying criteria:

1. For Dressage achieved at least 2 x MQR at a CDI 3*/4*/5*/CDI-W or CDIO3*/CDIO4*/CDIO5* event, and for Para Dressage 1 x MQR at any CPEDI 3* or above event in addition to the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games by 4 July 2026

Should more than 6 DSA Dressage and Para Dressage Squads Long List Combinations meet the DSA Squads Short Lists requirements, the Selectors will select the most appropriate Combinations for the DSA Dressage and Para Dressage Squads Short Lists as per the Selectors Evaluation Process.

Should less than 6 DSA Dressage and Para Dressage Squads Long List Combinations meet the DSA Squad Short List requirements, the Selectors may, and at their sole discretion, add additional Eligible Combinations (to a maximum of 6) to the DSA Squad Short Lists as per the Selectors Evaluation Process.

The DSA Squad Short Lists will be announced b 4 July 2026

.

DSA Team Selection -

The DSA Team/Individuals for World Championship 2026 will be selected from the DSA Squad Short Lists. To be considered for selection for the DSA Dressage and Para Dressage Teams, Combinations must have achieved/agree to the following criteria:

1) Dressage Combinations must have met the FEI Minimum Qualification Criteria for a championship pursuant to FEI Dressage Rules,

   Teams and Individuals: In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 FEI World Championships, Athletes and Horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least 66% attributed by the Ground Jury and by any two different FEI Level 4 Dressage Judges, of a nationality other than that of the Athlete, in a Grand Prix t two different CDI3/4*/5*/CDI-W or CDIO3*/CDIO4*/CDIO5* events during the qualification period.*

2) Para Dressage Combinations must have met the FEI Minimum qualification criteria (art 8404 Para-Equestrian Dressage Rules) Teams and individuals:

   "All athlete/horse combinations must have attained (as a combination) a minimum 64% score attributed by the Ground Jury in a Grand Prix A test or Grand Prix B test one time, at any CPEDI 3 or above event during the qualification period in addition to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.*

   Be internationally classified with a "confirmed" sport class status or a "Review" sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2025.

The Selectors will select the most appropriate Combinations for the DSA Dressage and Para Dressage Teams/Individual Positions as per the Selectors Evaluation Process.

The DSA Team/Individual nominations for the SAEF Team SA will be announced by the TBC 2026.

Appeals

Appeals concerning the non-selection of Athletes for the DSA Squad, Team and Individual positions will be heard by a DSA Appeal Committee in accordance with the DSA constitution. The only grounds for appeal will be a breach of the published Selection Process/Policy.

Only Athletes may appeal their non-selection. Owners of horses may not appeal any decision

An athlete must lodge their notice of intention to appeal in writing with the Council of DSA within three (3) working days after the date of the announcement of the DSA Squad/Team.

Substitution and Replacement of Athletes:

If subsequent to the selection of the DSA Squad, Team or Individual positions:

- in the opinion of the Selectors (in consultation with the EXCO of DSA and/or the Team Vet) there has been a loss of form or fitness by an Athlete, Horse or Combination, and the loss of form is assessed as being likely to be sustained and affect performance at World Championship 2026 or
- an Athlete contravenes the Athlete Agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations, DSA Rules and Regulations, Policies or Constitution;

that Athlete, Horse or Combination may be replaced by another Athlete, Horse or Combination selected in terms of the DSA Selection Process.

If at any stage during the selection process insufficient Athletes are available to select a full Squad or Team, and an additional athlete becomes available for selection, the selectors may add this athlete to the Squad or Team to ensure a full squad or team is available for consideration.

The Athlete selected to replace the Athlete being removed, or being added to the squad or team, must have submitted an Expression of Interest form by the closing date of 1 January 2026, and signed and submitted the Athlete Agreement by 4 July 2026. The replacing or additional Athlete, Horse or Combination must be qualified to do so in terms of this Selection Process document, considering the timing at which the replacement or addition is being made.

The Selectors will first consider Athletes, Horses or Combinations previously listed on the relevant Team Long or Short Lists, but should they believe it appropriate they may at their sole discretion consider Combinations previously not selected for a Long or Short List – provided the athlete had submitted the required Expression of Interest form by 1 January 2026, and the Athlete Agreement by 4 July 2026.

Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors may in writing advise an athlete that the Selectors will waive:

1) The requirement to compete at a Nominated event. Exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to:
   a) A situation where external factors impact upon the ability of a combination to complete the Nominated event;
   b) The cancellation or postponement of a Nominated event.
   c) Inability of DSA/SAEF to get invitations for the athletes to the planned Nominated events

2) The requirement to compete at a Mandatory event. Exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to:
   a) Where adverse weather conditions affect the quality of the ground conditions at the competition;
   b) Injury to an athlete or horse that does not impact on their ability to compete at World Championships 2026.