



KWA-ZULU NATAL DRESSAGE

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inter-Provincial Team Selection

The procedures below will be used for KZN 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 KwaZulu Natal Council (KZNDC) Administrator and Dressage South Africa

There are at least 3 selectors on the panel. The selectors are as far as possible chosen to avoid possible conflicts of interest and are required to immediately declare any apparent conflict. 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 The KZNDC will appoint a minimum of 3 team selectors (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, 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 KZNDC. 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 At the discretion of KZND there can be trials for each age category, the dates of which shall be announced by the KZNDC 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. A potential team member is anyone who:

- Is eligible to ride at SA Youth Champs;
- Is willing to travel to the venue of the championship at their own cost
- Is interested in being part of the KwaZulu Natal Team (KZNT);
- Has completed and submitted by the deadline date an Eol
- Understand that should they accept their selection to a team, may not withdraw unless a medical certificate (rider) or veterinary certificate (horse) is provided.

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 Eol forms have been received. **Rider Rankings will not be conclusive in deciding whether a specific horse / rider combination will be included in a team.**

2.3 Selectors' Authority

2.3.1 Once competitive history and a trial performance (where relevant) has been taken into account, the selectors will make their decision. **The selectors, however, reserve the right to include any KwaZulu-Natal member of Dressage SA into the KwaZulu-Natal 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 may be considered based on their performance stipulated in 2.2 and 2.3.1 above and pursuant to the selectors' rights and duties as stipulated in section 4 below.

3 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORMS

3.1 Expression of Interest Forms

3.1.1 Expression of Interest Forms must be emailed or handed on the due date to the selection convener as indicated on the form. This form amongst other things indicates to the selectors the willingness and ability to attend the Youth Championships. **The submission of the form also ensures that the prospective team member agrees to abide by the selectors' decision.**

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

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, where applicable.

4.2 The detailed results obtained in the three months including those results from the arranged rides of team tests (where applicable) 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 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 after the close of submission of EoI's for that particular championship, advise the KZNDC in writing of their selection. (Five riders comprising of 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 Kwazulu-Natal Dressage. A code of conduct will be signed by them before being awarded Colours, where applicable.
PLEASE NOTE THAT AS PER THE KZNSC POLICY ONLY THE BEST RIDERS COMPETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR PROVINCIAL 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 Where necessary all efforts will be taken by the selectors to attempt to identify riders and/or horses to enable KZN to field a team at each each level.
- 4.14 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.
- 4.15 The selector's decision when ratified by the KZNDC AND DSA is final.

5 DUTIES AFTER THE SELECTION

5.1 Formality Requirements

KZNDC will:

- 5.1.1 Appoint a chef d'équipe;
- 5.1.2 Notify team members, chef d'équipe and the Dressage SA ("DSA") office at the same time as to who the team comprises;
- 5.1.3 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, KZNDC to confirm that the candidates have not been selected for too many other disciplines.*

5.2 Team Requirements

KZNDC to notify all team members/parents & other respective parties as below

- 5.2.1 Congratulating them on their selection as either team members of team reserve
- 5.2.2 Advising them of colours policy, process and when and where colours will be presented
- 5.2.3 Remind riders of the fact that 5 team members are chosen. Four team riders and 5th rider as team reserve will be selected for the team event
- 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 KZNDC will organise any team clothing required and give the clothing to the chef d'equipe for distribution, please note cost of clothing is for the riders account
- 5.2.6 Advising the short list riders who did not make it into the final team who the team is and congratulate them for making the short list
- 5.2.7 Thanking the selectors
- 5.2.8 Ensuring the KZNDC 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 team members and chef d'equipe after show
- 5.2.11 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:

KZNDC 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:

- 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 KZN 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.
- 5.3.10 If for medical reasons more than one rider/horse combinations are not able to compete, then any further selection must be deferred to the KZNDC Chairman who will confer with the selectors to find a solution;
- 5.3.11 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;
- 5.3.12 Ensure the well-being of the team and act as a mentor. Maintain a good team spirit and morale;
- 5.3.13 Act as an ambassador for KZN as well as for the dressage discipline;

6. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MEMBERS

Once selected, each team member is responsible for:

- 6.1 Entering the show and may not withdraw once accepting the selection unless medical/veterinary certificate is provided.
- 6.2 Organizing his/her own transport and accommodation for the show;
- 6.3 Being available for any team practices or get-togethers;
- 6.4 Attending the Colours Ceremony;
- 6.5 Immediately notifying the chef d'équipe of any unsoundness or illness of his/her horse/pony and any poor health he/she may have;
- 6.6 Ensuring that his/her horse is in good condition and well turned out, and that tack and equipment are clean and in good condition;
- 6.7 Ensuring that he/she gives themselves enough time to warm-up the horse before classes;
- 6.8 Attending all social events organized by the Host Province at the show;
- 6.9 Being gracious at all times;
- 6.10 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 KZN and the team;
- 6.11 Always acting with good sportsmanship and to be ambassadors for KZN. 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 KZN, 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 colours rescinded and/or face disciplinary procedures