



# GB SELECTION POLICY

## 2023 VIRTUS PARA DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS EQUESTRIAN

### Video Competition – Round 1 (2023)

Published Policy

To be read alongside GB Rules & Regulations for Entry 2023

GB Riders By Invitation only

[WWW.SPORTEXCELUK.ORG](http://WWW.SPORTEXCELUK.ORG)

## **SELECTION POLICY**

### **Definitions of Terms used within this Policy:**

#### *SportExcel UK GB Team Performance or Qualifying Standard*

The standard that an athlete must achieve to be considered for the GB Team to the Virtus Championship.

#### *Programmed/Scheduled events*

The tests required to be performed by riders as set out by Virtus for the 2023 Championships.

#### *Virtus classes (eligibility and classification)*

- I1 - for athletes with an intellectual impairment
- I2 – group for athletes with a more significant intellectual impairment\*  
\*includes athletes with Down syndrome Trisomy 21
- I3 – for athletes with autism

#### *Sport and Selection Committee (SSC)*

The working group set up by SportExcel UK, in collaboration with RDA to set the Selection Policy and criteria for selection or invitation basis for GB riders in 2023.

#### *SportExcel UK (formerly the UK Sports Association)*

The official Virtus member nation for Great Britain. The recognised national charity, operating UK wide that facilitates and supports talented sports people with intellectual impairment in the UK to train, compete and excel in national and sport.

SportExcel UK manages the eligibility and classification system across all sports for athletes with learning disability. SportExcel UK is a member of the British Paralympic Association and is recognised by UK Sport.

## **SELECTION POLICY**

### **Introduction**

SportExcel UK and the RDA are delighted to be working together to develop a pathway to the Virtus World Championships. The Virtus Para Dressage Championships is a virtual dressage World Championships for riders with intellectual impairment.

For 2023, the SportExcel UK Sports Selection Committee for this event is made up of RDA but we reserve the right to invite other expert advisers as and when required.

GB competitors will be invited to Round 2 based on previous Virtus performances only.

Performances will also be taken into consideration for the potential GB Team to the Virtus Global Games. According to Virtus rules only riders who have taken part in the video competition previously and have been assessed by the Virtus Committee prior to end January 2023 can be considered for the Global Games.

It is a requirement that riders should meet specific and measurable qualification criteria for the Virtus Championships. SportExcel UK and Virtus are focussed on high performance sport for athletes with intellectual impairment.

As COVID restrictions are lifted, all riders will be expected to back in training and competition levels that demonstrate their ability, progression, and elite levels. Riders and coaches are encouraged to still exercise caution and follow good practice guidelines to minimise risks.

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### **GB Team Performance Standards and Criteria for Consideration/Selection**

- a) To be considered riders must have competed at a Virtus Para Equestrian Video Championships in 2021 or 2022 or have at the discretion and decision of the SSC met standards commensurate to that of a rider at this level.
- b) A rider's experience and ability to attain consistent high performance will be considered. The SportExcel UK Sport and Selection Committee may discuss with or request information from the riders, the RDA Regional Organisers and RDA Dressage Representatives to gain a full picture of the rider and abilities.
- c) Results from the Virtus Championship performances will be considered.
- d) Additional information provided on the 'Expression of Interest' will also be taken into consideration. A rider's experience and ability to attain consistent high performance will be considered. This may be discussed further with the riders coach to gain a full picture of the rider and abilities.

## Invitations to be considered

- e) The RDA Equine and Competitions Manager as part of the SportExcel UK Sport & Selection Committee (SSC) will consider all the information available and make recommendations to the SportExcel UK SSC for GB representation.
- f) The Sport Selection Committee will at their discretion reserve the right to specify additional criteria as and when, or when this arises.

## Eligibility and Classification

- g) Only athletes who have a valid classification for Virtus class II1, II2 or II3 can be entered for the Championships. Riders for the 2023 event must hold 'international eligibility'.
- h) Any athlete invited to prepare a video entry as part of the GB Team must have achieved an eligible status at the appropriate level, paid their UK and Virtus licence fees for 2023, be up to date with insurances and any RDA fees and appear as active on the Virtus Master List in the appropriate class.

## Other Considerations

- i) Any invitation extended by the SSC, is done so on the basis that riders will comply with SportExcel UK policies and procedures, RDA guidance and Virtus rules.
- j) A rider may be de-selected from the Team if, in the reasonable opinion of the SportExcel UK Selection Committee a rider is not at an appropriate fitness level or is not at the expected competitive level to appropriately represent Great Britain at the Championships at the point of recording their video entry.

## Selection and Invitation

- k) Each rider will need to meet all the selection criteria set out in this policy.
- l) Selection and invitation are at the discretion of the SSC based on all the information available to them at the time of selection or invitations. The decision of the SSC is final.

## Schedule and Deadlines

- m) Video entries/submissions Riders video entries to be received at SportExcel UK **by midday on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**. Late entries will not be submitted to Virtus.

## Post Selection and Appeals

- n) Any appeals against selection in relation to this Championships Selection Policy must be made in accordance with the SportExcel UK Appeals procedure. A copy of the Policy is available on request.

## PLEASE ALSO READ THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BRITISH RIDERS FOR SPECIFIC COMPETITION DETAILS.

### Disclaimer

SportExcel UK and RDA through the Sport and Selection Committee reserves the right to

- i) De-select athletes and/or staff as outlined in this policy or where such individual brings or has the potential to bring SportExcel UK, RDA the GB Team or sport into disrepute.
- ii) Remove or alter its entry, in full or in part where given consideration to all the circumstances and in SportExcel UK's reasonable opinion the viability of the Team in relation to welfare, competitiveness, competency, or other undertakings are at an unacceptable risk level or where an athlete, their advocate/support network or other does not fully meet and act upon their obligations under this policy.
- iii) Review and revise the SportExcel UK Selection Policy and 2023 Rules and Regulations relating to entries to the Championships based on information available to them at any given time.

SportExcel UK Sport & Selection Committee (Para Dressage/Equestrian),  
Charity No. 1050767 Tel: 0203 633 6460

[www.sportexceluk.org](http://www.sportexceluk.org)

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