GB SELECTION POLICY

2025 VIRTUS PARA DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS **EQUESTRIAN**

Video Competition – Round 1 (February 2025)

Published Policy
Including GB Rules & Regulations for Entry 2025

GB Riders By Invitation only

WWW.SPORTEXCELUK.ORG

2025 Virtus Para Dressage Video Championships– Round 1 (February)

SELECTION POLICY

Definitions of Terms used within this Policy:

Sport Excel 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 2024 Championships.

Virtus classes (eligibility and classification)

- II1 – for athletes with an intellectual disability
- II2 – group for athletes with a more significant intellectual impairment* (includes athletes with Down syndrome Trisomy 21) *
- II3 – for athletes with autism

Note: The term 'Intellectual Impairment' includes athletes with intellectual disability, down syndrome, and autism.

Sport and Selection Committee (SSC)
This is the SportExcelUK Committee. The Committee comprises experienced judges, coaches, and officials. The SSC sets the Selection Policy and criteria for selection or invitation for GB riders in 2024. Riders will be considered for selection by the SSC.

Sport Excel UK (formerly the UK Sports Association)
The official Virtus member nation for Great Britain. The recognised national charity, operating UK wide, facilitates and supports talented sports people with intellectual impairment in the UK to train, compete and excel in national and international sport.

Sport Excel UK manages the eligibility and classification system across all sports for athletes with intellectual impairment. Sport Excel UK is also a member of the British Paralympic Association and is recognised by UK Sport.

Please note that to be considered for the 2025 Virtus World Para Dressage Championships in the UK all GB riders must have competed in either or both of the following Virtus video championships October 2024, or February 2025.

There is no minimum age for video competitions. For face-to-face competitions, all athletes need to be a minimum of 14 years of age. [At the point of entry].

SELECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

Sport Excel UK, in partnership with British Dressage is keen to develop a performance pathway to the Virtus European and World Championships, through to the Virtus Global Games. Competing at the Virtus video Championships is part of that pathway. This Policy is to guide the selection of a GB Team and individual riders in a fair, equitable and transparent way.

For 2025, the Sport Excel UK Sports Selection Committee (SSC) requires riders from the UK to compete at either, or both the October 2024, and/or the February 2025 video Championships as part of the selection criteria for the 2025 Virtus World Para-Dressage Championships in the UK. To compete for Great Britain at the Championships riders must first be classified at a Virtus international level and must have achieved an appropriate level of consistent performance expected to represent Great Britain at the highest levels.

For riders going through the international Virtus classification process, you may be considered for the Virtus video Championships if you have been awarded a UK level classification by Sport Excel UK. This will permit you to be considered, and if invited, submit an entry, to achieve a score only. You cannot be considered part of the official GB Team at this stage or form part of the official results. However, by achieving a score, you may be eligible to be considered for the Virtus World Championships in the UK. This is subject to achieving a Virtus Classification and meeting the full selection criteria published by Sport Excel UK.

Entries to the Virtus video and any other Virtus Championships are only possible through Sport Excel UK. Individuals cannot entry directly with Virtus. Entries cannot be made through Virtus staff, volunteers or others associated with the event. Please enter via the official Sport Excel UK process only. Please do not enter through Horse Monkey.

All riders are expected to be in training and competition levels that demonstrate their ability, progression, and commitment to progressing in the sport. Riders who do not meet these expectations will not be invited to compete.

2. Eligibility and Classification

a) Only riders who have a valid international classification for Virtus class II1, II2 or II3 can be considered and/or entered to represent Great Britain for the Championships. Riders for the 2025 event must hold 'international Virtus classification/eligibility'. The classification process is managed by Sport Excel UK.

b) Any rider 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 2024 and 2025, be up to date with insurances and fees and appear as active on the Virtus Master List in the appropriate class.

c) Riders with a UK level classification, awarded by Sport Excel UK, may be considered, and invited to take part, to achieve a score only. Riders will be expected to be going through the Virtus classification process at the same time, and have paid all fees due whether UK fees or application fees.

d) If in any doubt as to the classification of a rider, a rider, and/or their coach, and/or their support network should contact Sport Excel UK as soon as possible on classification@sportexceluk.org

3. GB Team Performance Standards and Criteria for Consideration/Selection

a) There are two levels of entry to the Video Championships – Development and Performance.

Virtus Performance Video Competitions

b) To be *considered* for the Performance Group, riders must have competed at the
   i) RDA Grade 6 and/or 7, at the British Dressage Bronze and Silver Summer Championships and achieved a score of 58% or greater or
   ii) Grade 6 and/or 7, RDA National Championships 2023 or 2024 and achieved a score of 58% or greater or
   iii) The 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 Virtus Para Dressage Video Championships, 2023 Virtus Global Games, or the 2024 Virtus European Dressage Championships and achieved a score of 58% or greater.

Virtus Development Video Competitions

c) To be *considered* for the Development Group, riders must have competed at:
   i) RDA Regional Qualification Competitions during 2021, 2022, and 2023 or 2024 in an II Class and scored over 50% or
   ii) RDA Grade 6 and/or 7 at the British Dressage Bronze and Silver Summer Championships and achieved a score of 50% or greater or
   iii) Grade 6 and/or 7 RDA National Championships 2023 or 2024 and achieved a score of 50% or greater or
   iv) Any Virtus Video Championships where the rider has competed at a development level only and achieved a score of 50% or greater.

d) Riders who have previously competed in a Virtus Performance level event, video or Global Games are expected to compete in both Performance tests. Only in exceptional circumstances can those riders be considered for a developmental level event.

e) A rider's experience and ability to attain consistent high performance will be considered. Sport Excel UK, SSC, may discuss with or request information from the riders, coaches, or others to gain a full picture of the rider and abilities.

f) Additional information provided on the 'Entry Form' or '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.

g) Consideration is not a guarantee of selection and/or invitation for any rider.

4. Other Considerations

a) Any invitation is on the basis that riders comply with Sport Excel UK policies and procedures and Virtus rules.

b) A rider may be de-selected from the Team if, in the reasonable opinion of Sport Excel UK 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 or is not meeting the expectations of Sport Excel UK policies and procedures.

5. Invitations and Selection

a) The Sport Excel UK Sport and Selection Committee (SSC) will consider the information available and decide on invitations for riders to compete. The decision of the SSC is final.

b) The Sport Selection Committee at their discretion reserve the right to specify additional criteria. As and when, or if this arises, the selection criteria may be amended. The Committee will have the right to amend or change selection policies where necessary at any time to fulfil the objectives of the Selection Policy. Changes and amendments will be clearly communicated on the Sport Excel UK website.

6. Schedule and Deadlines

a) *Entry Forms:* All riders who have been invited to Sport Excel UK to compete and are classified (Virtus international level) and have met the entry standards should send their entry form and payment to Sport Excel UK no later than **5pm, Friday 14th February 2025.**

b) *Expressions of Interest:* All riders who are classified at a UK level (Sport Excel UK level) and have met the entry standards should send their EOI to Sport Excel UK no later than **5pm on Thursday 13th February 2025,** after which they will be contacted about their interest.

c) *Submitting Videos*: All invited rider's video entries should be received by Sport Excel UK no later than **5pm on Wednesday 26th February 2025**. Late entries will not be accepted or submitted to Virtus.

d) *Payments and Entries:* Entries must only be made through Sport Excel UK and must be accompanied by the entry fee at the time of entry. An email to finance@sportexceluk.org should be sent with *proof of payment*. Your entry is not confirmed until payment is made. Please do not enter via Virtus or Horse Monkey.

e) For all riders who are unclassified or awaiting Virtus international classification, but are currently without a UK level classification, please contact Sport Excel UK on classification@sportexceluk.org to discuss.

7. Post Selection and Appeals

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

8. Force Majeure

a) In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond Sport Excel UK's control, for example, but not exclusively, disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the Sport Excel Committee reserves the right to make the decision either to change the selection policy or procedure which might include withdrawing the Teams from competition or cancelling the competition.

9. Veterinary/Medical

a) Selected riders must notify the SSC of any change in their own health or fitness status, or their horse/pony health status or veterinary/medical management immediately.

10. Sport and Selection Committee

The Sport and Selection Committee reserves the right to

a) Not send a team or individual to any competition, video or otherwise

b) De-select athletes and/or staff as outlined in this policy or where such an individual brings or has the potential to bring Sport Excel UK, the GB Team or sport into disrepute.

c) Remove or alter its entry, in full or in part where given consideration to all the circumstances and in Sport Excel UK's reasonable opinion the viability of the Team in relation to welfare (person or animal), 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.

d) Review and revise the Sport Excel UK Selection Policy and 2025 Rules and Regulations relating to entries to the Championships based on information available to them at any given time.

Please read this policy alongside the following Rules and Regulations.

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR BRITISH RIDERS

2025 Virtus Para Dressage Video Championship

Please read the full selection policy alongside these Rules and Regulations.

Entry Date:

1. Videos must be received at Sport Excel UK no later than **5pm on Tuesday 29th October 2024** (GMT).

2. To validate that all tests have been recorded in the qualifying period please show a newspaper with the date clearly visible at the beginning of your recordings. The qualifying period for GB competitors is 1st February 2025 to 5pm on 29th October 2024 (GMT).

3. This is an invitation only event. Only GB riders who meet the standards have the appropriate classification level and meet all the criteria in the Selection Policy will be considered.

4. Results will be published by Virtus as soon as possible after 28th February 2025. Sport Excel UK will inform British competitors of their results once published.

5. This is the first video competition (No.1) for 2025. Riders who compete in all 3 rounds in 2025 can vie for the annual champion status.

This event is organized in accordance with the VIRTUS Para Dressage Rules (March 2022) and in accordance with the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

Tests:

6. There are two levels of competition. Please read the Selection Policy to see for which competition level you are eligible. Riders who have competed in the Virtus video Championships, the European Championships or Global Games previously are expected to compete at the Performance level.

7. **Performance level** riders are expected to compete in both tests. The tests will be judged separately.

   All British riders are expected to compete provide videos in both tests.

   For II1 and II3 riders:
   - FEI Grade 4 Novice A
   - FEI Grade 4 Intermediate A

   For II2 riders:
   - FEI Grade 3 Novice A
   - FEI Grade 3 Intermediate B

8. In all tests the Halt in the first movement is skipped.

9. For inclusion in the Team competition, riders must provide videos of both tests. Teams are made up of three riders. If there are more than three riders, the scores of the best three riders' count. Teams of three must have at least 2 riders in classes II1 and/or II2.

10. **Development Level**: Riders can choose one or both of the following test, although an entry in both tests is encouraged. The tests will be judged separately.

    For all riders, II1, II2 and II3
    - FEI Grade 2 Novice A
    - FEI Grade 2 Intermediate A

11. In all tests the Halt in the first movement is skipped.

Arena:

12. An outdoor arena is preferred, 20 x 40m. If an indoor arena is used, it must provide enough space for proper video recording.

Rules:

13. This event is organised in accordance with the Virtus Para Dressage Rules, January 2024 (updated) available and in accordance with the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse

https://www.virtus.sport/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/VIRTUS-Equestrian-Dressage-Rules-V4-9-jan-2024.pdf

14. Horses and ponies can be ridden by more than one rider, but not more than two riders in a team.

15. Videos of tests may not be entered if they have already been judged at a competition. If a video is suspected to have been taken at a competition, the rider will be disqualified.

16. Riders are encouraged to wear regular competition outfits. The horse must wear bandages. A commander is allowed. Please refer to the Virtus rule book for more.

17. The decision of the Virtus judges is final.

Filming

18. The person filming must stand behind C as far as possible but will have to zoom in when the rider is at A.

19. The video must be taken in landscape format in one shot. No cuts allowed. The whole horse must be always seen. Sound must be recorded to make sure no coaching is taking place during the test. Riders are not allowed to wear earphones.

20. The video must be clear and focused. Please follow this guidance:
    - Videos must start with a clear introduction, showing the days newspaper, saying the riders name, horse name, date and which test is being ridden.
    - Use a tripod or stand where possible to reduce motion.
    - Minimise background noise and interruption.
    - Be aware of sunlight or spotlights to avoid glare.
    - Videos must be saved in MPEG or MOV format and uploaded to YouTube, the details for which should be sent to Sport Excel UK, with password if necessary. Only YouTube is acceptable.
    - Videos must be filmed landscape. (Portrait will not be accepted).
    - Please review your video to ensure it can be viewed properly by the judging panel. Poor quality videos may lead to disqualification.

Virtus Judges and Awards:

21. Entries will be judged by FEI Para Dressage judges.

22. Individual Riders placed in rank 1 to 6 will be provided with virtual rosettes and a certificate showing their rank and score. There will be no prize money given out. For the Team competition, the riders of the first three nations placed highest will receive virtual rosettes. Only the 3 riders making up team entry from those three nations will receive virtual rosettes. Virtus will provide virtual rosettes only.

23. Any Virtus information for British riders will be sent to Sport Excel UK for distribution.

Dress and Tack:

24. Competition gear should be worn as stated in the FEI Para Dressage Rules, but riders may wear Jodhpur boots and black or brown half chaps. Gloves must be worn.

Bridles and Tack:

25. Whilst double bridles are allowed, please note that snaffle bridles are preferred. No auxiliary reins are allowed. Use of auxiliary reigns will lead to disqualification.

26. Horses must wear bandages.

27. For the use of spurs, whips and compensating aids please refer to the Virtus Para Dressage Rules. Please pay particular attention to section 6.2 and compensating aids and contact Sport Excel UK prior to videoing if any non-standard compensating aids are being considered.

Errors

28. Errors will be handled as stated on the test sheet.

GB Entry Criteria:

29. Riders and coaches must read the full Selection Policy. It is the responsibility of the rider and their support personnel and/or coaches to ensure that the rider follows the rules in this policy and Virtus rule book.

30. All GB entries and payments must be made through Sport Excel UK, the Virtus member. Please do not enter directly to Virtus or Horse Monkey. Riders who do not follow this procedure may not have their entry validated by Sport Excel UK and Great Britain.

Entry Fees:

31. A fee of £121.50 per British rider is required. Payment should be made via internet banking/or at a bank:
    - Account Name: UK Sports Association, UKSAPLD or UKSA).
    - Account Number: 71594567, Sort Code: 40-04-09,
    - Use the competitors name and sport as a reference.

    Please email finance@sportexceluk.org with proof of payment. Entry Fees will not be refunded once an entry is accepted.

32. Payment must reach Sport Excel UK at the same time as the rider accepts the invitational entry or confirms their entry. If you do not inform us at finance@sportexceluk.org with proof of payment, your entry cannot be submitted.

Acceptance:

33. Accepting an invitation to enter or submitting an entry constitutes acceptance of the rules, regulations, and selection process, including full acceptance of the Virtus Dressage rules.

34. Accepting an invitation to enter or submitting an entry also means the rider agrees to Virtus and Sport Excel UK using pictures and videos in marketing and promotion such as press releases, social media, and websites.

Submitting Video Entries:

35. Videos must be uploaded via YouTube. Once uploaded to YouTube, please send an email to tracey.mccillen@sportexceluk.org with the links and password. Put '2025 Video Entry Equestrian + the riders name' in the subject heading.

36. Please allow plenty of time to ensure any technical issues for upload are dealt with in good time and by the GB deadline of **5pm on Tuesday 29th October 2024 GMT.**

37. Sport Excel UK will upload GB entries to Virtus no later than 11.59pm (GMT) on 31st October 2024.