GB SELECTION POLICY

2026 VIRTUS PARA DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
EQUESTRIAN

Video Competition – Round 1 (February 2026)

Published Policy
Including Revised GB Rules & Regulations for Entry 2026

GB Riders By Invitation only

WWW.SPORTEXCELUK.ORG

2026 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 2026 Competitions and 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 Sport Excel UK 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 2026. 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 2026 Virtus Para Dressage Championships all GB riders must have competed in a recent Virtus video championships or face to face Championships to be considered. Sport Excel UK expect riders to compete in both tests listed for Virtus Video Championships and to demonstrate improvement in scores.

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

Introduction

Sport Excel UK, in partnership with British Dressage, is developing a clear performance pathway for riders progressing towards the Virtus European and World Championships and ultimately the Virtus Global Games. Participation in the Virtus Video Championships forms a key part of this pathway.

This Selection Policy sets out how Great Britain riders and teams will be considered and selected in a fair, equitable and transparent way.

Performance Pathway and 2026/27 Consideration

For consideration in 2026 face to face Championships, the Sport Excel UK Sports Selection Committee (SSC) requires UK riders to:

- Compete in at least two Virtus Video Championships from February 2026**,** and
- Demonstrate performance improvement and progression across those competitions.

Performances at these events will form part of the selection criteria for any 2026 Virtus Para-Dressage Championships**.**

To be selected to represent Great Britain, riders must:

- Hold a current Virtus international classification, and
- Demonstrate a consistent standard of performance appropriate for international representation at the highest level.

Training, Progression and Expectations

All riders are expected to be:

- Actively training and competing at a level appropriate to their ability,
- Demonstrating ongoing progression and commitment**,** and
- Showing consistent improvement in scores and performance**.**

Where these expectations are not met, riders may not be invited to compete.

2027 Global Games

Selection for the 2027 Virtus Global Games in Egypt will amongst other matters consider, performances achieved during 2026 and 2027**.** The SSC may also take account of other performances as it deems appropriate.

Virtus Rule Change for 2026 – Performance Level Status

In line with Virtus rules:

- Any rider who has not achieved a score of 55% or above in their most recent Performance Tests entry must return to Development level**.**
- To be considered for a return to Performance level, the rider must then achieve at least two scores of 65% or higher at Development level.

Entries and Eligibility

All entries to Virtus Video Championships and any other Virtus Championships must be made through Sport Excel UK**.**

- Riders must not enter directly with Virtus, via Horse Monkey, or through Virtus staff, volunteers, or any other individuals.
- Entries submitted through unauthorised routes will not be accepted.
- Riders should follow the official Sport Excel UK entry process only**.**

1. 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. Only riders in possession of a valid international classification will be accepted to prepare an entry. 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 license fees for 2025 and 2026 and be up to date with insurances and fees and appear as active on the Virtus Master List in the appropriate class.

c) 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

2. 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 2024 or 2025 and achieved a score of 58% or greater or
   iii) The 2025 Virtus Para Dressage Video Championships or 2025 Virtus World Para-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 2024 or 2025 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 2024 or 2025 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 face to face Virtus Championships, Virtus video event 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 or if they have not met the minimum criteria established by Virtus.

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 performances and show regular progression 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. Sport Excel UK reserves the right not to invite or select a rider to a Video or other event.

3. 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, including video competitions 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.

c) A rider may not be invited, or de-selected, if in the opinion of Sport Excel UK or its advisors they or any member of their support system has, or have the potential to bring into disrepute the sport, Sport Excel UK, Virtus or other GB riders.

4. 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.

5. Schedule and Deadlines

a) Entry Forms (Returning Riders)

Riders who have previously competed with Sport Excel UK must complete an Entry Form and submit it to Sport Excel UK by 12 noon on Monday 9 February 2026.

Entry forms must be submitted together with the entry fee.

b) Expression of Interest (New Riders)

Riders wishing to compete with Sport Excel UK and Virtus for the first time must submit an Expression of Interest to Sport Excel UK by 12 noon on Monday 9 February 2026.

c) Submission of Videos

Competition videos must be submitted to Sport Excel UK no later than **12 noon on Wednesday 25 February 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted and will not be submitted to Virtus under any circumstances.

d) Payments and Entries

- All entries must be made through Sport Excel UK only.
- Riders must not enter directly via Virtus, Horse Monkey, or any other route.
- Entry fees must be submitted at the same time as entry forms, unless otherwise directed.

- Proof of payment must be emailed to finance@sportexceluk.org, with "Virtus Video Entry" clearly stated in the subject line.
- Entries are not confirmed until payment has been received.
- Riders seeking to enter for the first time should not submit any entry fee until Sport Excel UK has confirmed an invitation to enter.

e) For all riders who are unclassified, have a UK level classification or are awaiting Virtus international classification, please contact Sport Excel UK on classification@sportexceluk.org.

6. Post Selection and Appeals

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

7. 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.

8. Veterinary/Medical

b) 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.

9. Sport and Selection Committee

The Sport Excel UK Sports Selection Committee (SSC) reserves the right to:

a) Decide not to enter a team or individual rider into any competition, whether video-based or in-person.

b) De-select riders and/or staff in line with this Policy, including where an individual's conduct brings, or has the potential to bring, Sport Excel UK, the GB Team, or the sport into disrepute.

c) Withdraw, amend or limit an entry, in full or in part, where—having considered all relevant circumstances and in Sport Excel UK's reasonable opinion—the viability of the team or individual is compromised. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns relating to:

- welfare (human or equine),
- competitiveness,
- competence or readiness,
- compliance with this Policy, or
- failure by an athlete, their advocate or support network to meet their obligations under this Policy.

d) Review and amend this Selection Policy and the 2026 Rules and Regulations relating to Championship entries where necessary, based on information available at the time.

Please consider this policy alongside the Sport Excel UK Rules and Regulations below.

The Virtus Rule Book can be found here
7.12-VIRTUS-Equestrian-Dressage-Rules-2026-Version-1219.pdf

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR BRITISH RIDERS

2026 Virtus Para Dressage Video Championship Series

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 **12 noon on Wednesday 25th February 2026.** (GMT). Entry Forms should be received ahead of this deadline – no later than **12 noon on Monday 9th February 2026**.

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 to 12 noon, Wednesday 25th February 2026 (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 by Sport Excel UK.

4. Results will be published by Virtus as soon as possible after 28th February 2026. Sport Excel UK will inform British competitors of their results once published.

5. This is the first video competition (No.1) for 2026. Riders who compete in all 3 rounds in 2026 can vie for the annual champion status.

This event is organised in accordance with the VIRTUS Para Dressage Rules (January 2026) 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 which competition level you are eligible. Riders who have competed in the Virtus video Championships, the Virtus European/World Championships or Global Games previously are expected to compete at the Performance level and in both tests, unless they do not meet the Virtus minimum criteria of 55% or more at the previous event.

7. **Performance level** riders are expected to compete **in both tests**. The tests will be judged separately. **British riders should provide videos in both tests for their class.**

   For II1 and II3 riders:
   - FEI Para Dressage Grade IV Novice A
   - FEI Para Dressage Grade IV Intermediate A

   For II2 riders:
   - FEI Para Dressage Challenge II, Grade III Foundation Test
   - FEI Para Dressage Grade III, Novice A

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

9. **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 Para Equestrian Grade II Novice A
   - FEI Para Equestrian Grade II Intermediate A

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

Arena:

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

Rules:

12. This event is organised in accordance with the Virtus Para Dressage Rules, January 2026 (updated) and in accordance with the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse

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

14. 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.

15. Riders are encouraged to wear regular competition outfits. The horse must wear bandages. A commander is allowed. Please refer to the

16. The decision of the Virtus judges is final.

Filming

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

18. 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.

19. 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, Great Britain, which test is being ridden and which class the rider is in.
    - 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:

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

21. Electronic Certificates will be awarded to individual riders placed 1 to 6 on each of the tests. There will be no team placing at video competitions. There will be no prize money.

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

Dress and Tack:

23. 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:

24. 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.

25. Horses must wear bandages.

26. For the use of spurs, whips and compensating aids please refer to 7.12-VIRTUS-Equestrian-Dressage-Rules-2026-Version-1219.pdf 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

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

GB Entry Criteria:

28. 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.

29. 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:

30. British rider fees are as follows: 2 tests - £103.00, 4 tests - £166.00. 1 test - £71.50

31. 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 riders entry or expression of interest. 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 '2026 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 **12 noon on Wednesday 25th February 2026 GMT.**

37. Sport Excel UK will upload GB entries to Virtus no later than 11.59pm (GMT) on 28th February 2026.

Virtus asks Riders to consider the following when recording their video

a. Where possible, avoid anything that provides personal information in the background or setting where the video is being filmed.
b. Ensure that you only have the horse and rider combination in the film that you are recording.
c. Do not share the video content with anyone else. (Other than Sport Excel UK for your entry)
d. Make sure you use your own device to record where possible.
e. Check the rules for correct competition clothing and tack.
f. Avoid filming in direct sunlight.
g. Think about the time of day that you record your video, low setting sun, mist etc., can all have an effect on the quality of videos.
h. If your horse is dark in colour think about the background of your video. For example, if your arena is surrounded by dark hedges your horse might blend in with the background.
i. The Filmer must stand at C.
j. The Filmer needs to always keep you (the rider/horse) in the centre of the screen, following you around the arena and zoom in where necessary.
k. Videos must be filmed in landscape (turn the phone on its side)
l. Make sure you can see all the letters around the arena and it is the correct size (20m x 40m)
m. All videos must be started by filming the days newspaper for the day you are recording.
n. Make sure the recorder states the riders name, horse name, test you are riding, your Virtus class and Great Britain at the start of the competition.
o. Upload your videos to YouTube and send the link and passwords to Sport Excel UK. Make sure you save the file with your name and test name. (Smith, John, and full test name)
p. Videos can only be entered by Sport Excel UK.

The judges will eliminate poor quality videos or where the horse and rider are not in full frame, zooming in and out and not indicating the current test accurately at the start of the video. Please make sure you take your time and take care when recording the video.