



NEW ZEALAND

DRESSAGE

TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATION/SELECTION OVERVIEW

1. SUMMARY

Any Dressage combination(s) endeavouring to be selected for the Tokyo Olympics will be required to have met each of the following four elements:

- i. **FEI Qualification:** To have attained an FEI Olympic Qualification; NZL must secure an individual spot by either being one of the two highest ranked athletes in the FEI Olympic Ranking within Group G or by being the highest ranked athlete in the FEI Olympic Rankings where not qualified via the aforesaid (i.e. though FEI Olympic Groups); AND
- ii. **FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement:** As an individual, to have met the FEI Eligibility Requirements which includes securing a Certificate of Capability; AND
- iii. **ESNZ Performance & Eligibility Requirements:** To have proven to ESNZ's Dressage Selectors that they have met the requisite ESNZ Olympic Selection Performance Criteria; AND
- iv. **NZOC Overarching Criteria:** Have performances of such depth and quantity to have proven to the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) that they are capable of achieving a top 16 placing with the potential to win a top 8 placing in the Individual Event at the Games.

This document sets out each of the elements in a little more detail and provides a proposed plan.

2. FEI Qualification Requirements

2.1 Team Spot – NZL does not have an opportunity to qualify a team for Tokyo because the Team Qualifying spot for Group G was gained by Australia at the World Equestrian Games. Japan qualifies automatically for a team spot due to being the hosting country.

2.2 Individual Spot - An individual qualification can be gained through being one of two best ranked athletes from the FEI Olympic Ranking for group G.

2.3 The countries in Group G that we will compete against include:

Brunei	Cambodia	China	Chinese Taipei	Hong Kong
India	Indonesia	Japan	Korea	Malaysia
Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Sri Lanka	Thailand

2.4 However, if a country (eg Australia or Japan) has declined their team quote (see 2.3), they will get first priority to the two individual spots available, ahead of FEI Rankings priority.

3. FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements

3.1 To be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 Dressage Competitions, all combinations must achieve the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) at selected Events between 1 January 2019 - 1 June 2020, which will provide them with a Certificate of Capability (CoC).

4. NZ Olympic Committee Over-arching Nomination Requirements

The NZOC requires any athlete being nominated for selection to show evidence of the following:

- 4.1 is or are capable of achieving a top 16 placing at the Games in the Individual Event, with the potential to win an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing); and
- 4.2 has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that ESNZ believes demonstrates the Athlete (or group of Athletes) will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably in the Individual Event.

This requirement is placed upon ALL sports and is to encourage strong performances on the world-stage, coupled with the fact that the NZOC funds the costs of athletes (including horses) and coaches that compete at the Olympics.

To that end, the performance criteria that has been suggested by ESNZ as likely to demonstrate that a combination may meet this overarching requirement is as follows:

1. Submission of at least four scores of $\geq 71\%$ in a GP at a are FEI CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5* or CDIW provided that such event is approved by the FEI as a MER Qualifying event between 1 January 2019 – 1 June 2020; AND
2. An average of at least two of those scores (aforementioned) must be $\geq 73\%$ and one of those scores must have been attained in 2020.

We would note that this is a significantly higher bar than that which has been required previously because international performances continue to get better and we are required to be able to demonstrate the capability of a top 16 to the NZOC. The notable changes from previous Olympic Nomination criteria is based on the following:

- a. The Grand Prix Special has been removed as a qualifying score for the purposes of selection because individuals at the Olympics do not get the opportunity to ride the Grand Prix Special test at all (it is purely a team competition);
- b. The 16th placegetter in both the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special at the World Equestrian Games were sitting on marks between 73-74% in both classes (noting that it was a different qualification format). With that in mind, Selectors felt that combinations would need to be achieving GP scores of over 71% with some scores of over 73% to demonstrate a capability of 16 placing; and
- c. NZOC requires “Key Events” to be “a major or pinnacle event for the sport or is at least the equivalent of a World Cup or World Championship, and have an equivalent field to that which is likely to occur at the Games.” Selectors did not feel that a national event that was not run in a CDI format would suffice as such and therefore removed the discretion to add other national events as required.

Unfortunately these high performance levels are necessary to ensure that Tokyo prospective combinations are clear on the performance required of them for selection as an Olympic representative (as distinct from a World Equestrian Games which doesn't have these overarching requirements).

5. Time Line

Date	Action
31 st December 2019	All horses to be in NZ Ownership
	Deadline for NOC/NF to achieve Certificate of Capability/Qualification
10 th January 2020	FEI informs NOC/NF of Team Quota allocations
24 th January 2020	NZOC Athlete Applications due
3 rd February 2020	NOC/NF to confirm Team spot
17 th February 2020	FEI informs NOCs/NFs of Reallocation of team quota places

1 st June 2020	Deadline for Athletes to achieve FEI Certificate of Capability
TBC	ESNZ Nominations submitted to NZOC Selectors
6 th July 2020	Tokyo Sport Entries Deadline

6. Changes to the Olympic Structure

The FEI General Assembly have approved of the Structure/Formal for the Tokyo Olympic Games, though it is still to be approved by the International Olympic Committee. For the purpose of this paper, the following is of importance to note:

- 6.1 Qualified Teams can take 4 combinations. There are only three to compete in the team competition, but substitution is allowed.
- 6.2 The Grand Prix is both the Team and Individual Qualifier. Athletes compete in six groups which are based on the FEI World Ranking List of the combinations. Three groups compete on the first day and three groups on the second day. Two combinations from each group plus the next best six combinations qualify for the GP Freestyle.
- 6.3 The Grand Prix Special to music is the Team competition – no individual athletes are allowed.
- 6.4 The Grand Prix Freestyle is the Individual Final competition which is open to 18 combinations from the Grand Prix. Only the GP Freestyle counts towards the final individual placings.

7. Where to from here?

2019 - 2019 is an important year in the lead up to Tokyo 2020. Not only is it the year in which we need to qualify for an individual spot for Tokyo via the FEI Rankings, but it's the year in which combinations should be looking to achieve performances that can assist with proving to the NZOC that they can meet that overriding criteria. (Refer to point 4 above). It is important to note that the combination that secures the individual spot for New Zealand does not necessarily need to be the combination that is selected to take the position.

By the end of 2019 we will be expecting any horse that an athlete wishes to be considered for selection to be in NZ ownership this is to ensure we have established combinations going into 2020.

2020 – In 2020, the focus for the Tokyo prospective combinations will be getting performances that ensures their selection and that they will be capable of meeting the overarching criteria.

The important message to any Athlete aiming for Tokyo is to use 2019 to make their mark, establish their performance plan and achieve good results which can then be further capitalised on in 2020.